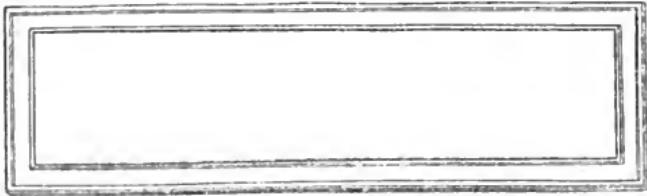
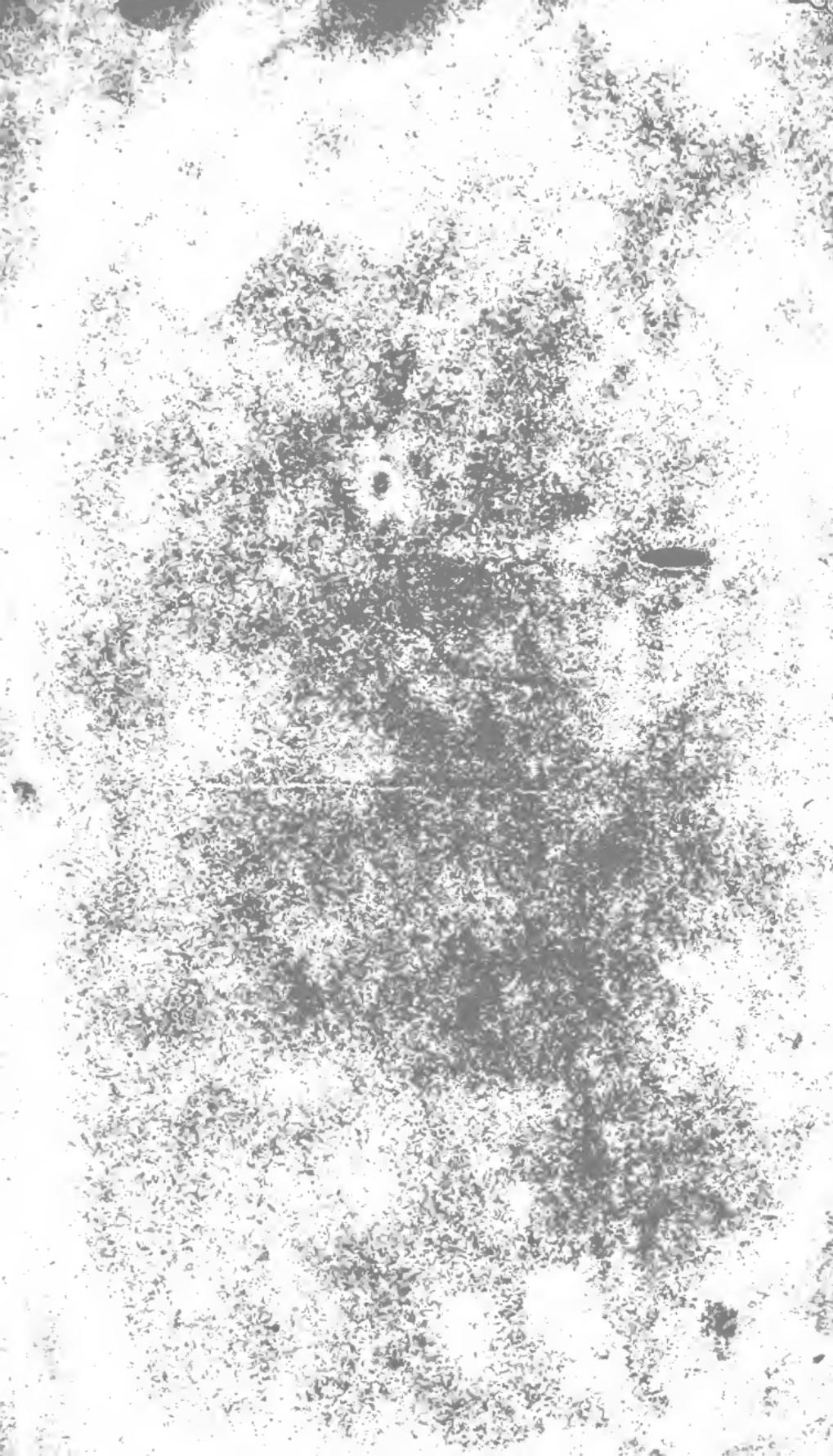


UC-NRLF



\$B 150 873





4 202



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2007 with funding from
Microsoft Corporation

H I S T O R Y
OF THE
AMERICAN
BAPTIST PUBLICATION SOCIETY,

From its Origin in 1824,

To its Thirty-Second Anniversary in 1856.

Drawn up under the direction of the Board,

BY
J. NEWTON BROWN.



Philadelphia:
AMERICAN BAPTIST PUBLICATION SOCIETY,
530 ARCH STREET.

1856

BX 1205

A657

no VIMU
allegorilaco

C O N T E N T S.

PART I.

	PAGE
Introduction,.....	9
ORIGIN OF THE SOCIETY, at Washington, D. C., 1824,.....	13
Original Constitution,.....	15
Progress of the Society in 1824,.....	19
Original Principles and Views of its Founders,	19
FIRST ANNUAL MEETING, 1825,.....	26
SECOND ANNUAL MEETING, 1826,.....	28
THIRD ANNUAL MEETING, at Philadelphia, 1827	31
Baptist Tract Magazine,	32
Catalogue of Tracts, in 1826-7,.....	33
FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING, 1828,.....	34
Baptist Statistics,	37
FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING, 1829,	40
Manifold Usefulness of the Society,.....	42
SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING, 1830,.....	45
Tracts for every Church,.....	47
Sabbath-Schools,	49
Death of Rev. Noah Davis,.....	50
SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING, 1831,	50
Monthly Tract Distributions,.....	55
Monthly Tract Publications,.....	56
EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING, 1832,.....	56
Memorable Testimonies,	58
Letter of Dr. Judson—Demand for Burman Tracts,.....	61
NINTH ANNUAL MEETING, 1833,	62
Influence of our Tracts in Germany. Rev. J. G. Oncken,	63
The West and South West. The Aborigines,.....	64
Tract Magazine, etc,.....	66
Two Plans of Depositories. Results,.....	67
Obligations of the Society. Rev. D. Cameron,.....	68
TENTH ANNUAL MEETING, 1834,.....	69

M134197

(3)

	PAGE
Vindication of the Principles of the Society,	69
Work of the Year,.....	73
ELEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING, 1835,.....	74
Tract House Fund,.....	75
The Baptist Manual,.....	75
New Efforts Abroad. Burmah,.....	76
Germany. First Baptist Church at Hamburg,.....	76
TWELFTH ANNUAL MEEING, 1836,	78
The Mississippi Valley Fund,	80
THIRTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING, 1837,.....	81
The Tract Enterprise,.....	82
FOURTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING, 1838,	87
A Proposition Urged. Pengilly's Scripture Guide,	88
Baptist Record. Triennial Register,.....	90
Work at Home and Abroad,.....	90
Dr. Sears, on Germany,.....	94
Adjourned Meeting. Resolutions,.....	98
FIFTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING, 1839,.....	99
Duty of the Denomination to this Cause,	102
Enlargement of the Society Proposed,	103
Resignation of the Rev. I. M. Allen,	104
SIXTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING, 1840,.....	105
The Society's Work in Sixteen Years,.....	107

PART II.

New Organization desired as early as 1835,	113
A Baptist Sunday-School Union proposed in 1839,.....	114
Broader Plan of the Board. Appeal,.....	114
The Reorganization in 1840. New Name,.....	117
Technical Errors,.....	120
SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING, 1841,.....	121
Want of Working Capital,.....	123
Weekly Baptist Record,.....	123
A Baptist Hymn Book proposed,.....	124
Work of Colportage. The First in America,	124
Counting the Cost of the Enterprise,.....	126
EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING, 1842,.....	128
Plans formed, but delayed,	129
Waste of Energy, Time, and Means,	130
The Question of Life or Death,.....	131
NINETEENTH ANNUAL MEETING, 1843,.....	133

	PAGE
Common Mistakes as to the Society. Its great Object,.....	134
The Means necessary to Accomplish its Object,	135
Work of the Year,.....	137
New Resolutions,.....	138
The Circular of 1843,.....	140
Appendix to the Circular,.....	144
TWENTIETH ANNUAL MEETING,	144
The Psalmist,	145
Cheap Monthly Periodicals,.....	145
Value of Colportage,	146
Proposed Fifty Thousand Dollar Fund,.....	148
Matter of Fact Appeal,.....	149
The Weekly Record. Changes in the Constitution,	150
Encouragements,.....	151
The Circular of 1844. The \$50,000 Fund,.....	152
TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL MEETING, 1845,	152
Loan of \$2,400 necessary,	153
Complete Works of Andrew Fuller,.....	154
Dr. Carson on Baptism,.....	155
Other Works of the Year,	155
Two Plans of Colportage,	156
Axiliary Societies. Book Funds,.....	158
Grateful Review,.....	160
Astounding Facts,.....	160
Claims of the Society,.....	163
Important Principles of the Society,.....	166
TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL MEETING, 1846,	167
Howell on Communion and on the Deaconship,.....	168
Quarterly Baptist Record,	169
Colporteurs. New Views,.....	170
Colporteur Missionaries,	172
German population,.....	174
The Foreign Field,.....	177
Corresponding Secretary. Rev. T. S. Malcom,.....	179
Resolutions. Resignation of Rev. J. M. Peck,.....	181
The Ten Thousand Dollar Fund, for Gratuities,.....	181
Special Meeting at Brooklyn, N. Y.,.....	182
Defect of Materials,.....	183
TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL MEETING, 1847,	184
Annual Report of the Board,.....	185
Books Circulated. Fuller's Works,.....	185
Resolutious,	187
Prospects,	189

	PAGE
TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL MEEING, 1848,.....	189
Annual Report,.....	189
Resolutions,.....	190
Pengilly in French,.....	191
TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING, 1849,.....	192
Annual Report of the Board,.....	192
Resolutions,.....	193
TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING, 1850,.....	194
Annual Report of the Board,.....	195
Appointment of an Editor,.....	196
Improvement in Books,	196
Removal of Depository. \$25,000 Building Fund,.....	197
Failure of Negotiation,	197
Historical Paper,	197
Resolutions,	198
New Depository. Building Funds,.....	199
Annual Day of Prayer for the Society,.....	199
Editorial Secretary,.....	200
TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING, 1851,.....	200
Annual Report of the Board. New Publications,.....	200
Ten Thousand Dollar Fund,	201
Permanent Charter. Building Fund,.....	202
Proceedings and Resolutions,.....	202
Increase of Stock,	204
Annual Report of 1852,.....	204
TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING, 1852,.....	204
Annual Report of the Board,.....	205
New Publications. Bunyan's Practical Works,.....	205
Colporteur Missionaries. Liberal Brethren,.....	206
Addresses and Resolutions,.....	207
Collection for Mr. Oncken,	208
Bunyan's Works,.....	209
TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL MEETING, 1853,.....	209
Annual Report of the Board,.....	209
American Baptist Register for 1852,	210
Circulation of Books,.....	211
Sunday-School Department,	212
Historical Department,	213
Colporteur Department,.....	213
Annual Report Continued,	217
Prayer for the Editorial Secretary,.....	218
Special Meeting Proposed,.....	219
Resignation of Rev. T. S. Malcom,.....	219

	PAGE
Choice of a Successor. Rev. Heman Lincoln,	220
Rev. William Shadrach. Resolutions,	220
American Baptist Historical Society,.....	221
THIRTIETH ANNUAL MEETING, 1854.....	223
Report of the Board,	224
Colportage the Right Arm of the Society,	226
Foreign Colportage,	227
Building Fund. Publishing Fund,.....	229
First Report of the Am. Baptist Historical Society,.....	229
Committees on the Annual Report of the Board,	230
Addresses and Annual Sermon,	230
THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL MEETING, 1855,.....	231
Report of the Board,	231
Amended Form of Constitution,.....	233
Branch Depositories,.....	233
Colportage in Sweden,.....	236
THIRTY-SECOND ANNUAL MEETING, 1856,	238
General Retrospect of the Thirty-two years,.....	238
Retrenchment in the Publishing Department,	241
Sales, Receipts, and Disbursements,.....	242
Benevolent Funds Overdrawn,	242
Destitution and Gratuitous Distributions,	243
Branch Depositories. Chicago,	244
The Society a Denominational Necessity,.....	245
The Great Want,.....	247
The Present Effort. \$100,000 Fund,.....	247
Reasons for this Effort,.....	249
Agencies,.....	252
Testimony of Agents,.....	253
Colportage,.....	258
Colportage a Complete System of Evangelism,.....	260
Colportage established in Sweden,	261
Resolutions,	265
Conclusion,.....	267
Advertisement,.....	268
APPENDIX,	269
Constitution of the Society,	272
Historical Table,.....	275



H I S T O R Y.

P A R T I.

1. Introduction.

THE falling of an apple is said to have suggested to the mind of Sir Isaac Newton the universal law of gravitation. The falling of a tract from the hat of Rev. Samuel Cornelius, of Alexandria, suggested to the mind of NOAH DAVIS the idea of the Baptist General Tract Society—the germ of the American Baptist Publication Society.* How

* It would seem that something of the kind had occurred to the minds of others four years earlier, though unknown to Mr. Davis. The time for its accomplishment had not then come. But honor to whom honor is due. We give the following interesting extract of a letter from Mr. John S. Meehan, of Washington, D. C., to Rev. B. R. Loxley, of Philadelphia, dated

"Washington, Sept. 27, 1855.

"When I resided in Philadelphia, I had charge of a class in the Sansom Street Sunday-School, and almost every month had a difficulty in dealing out tracts to the children, on account of their anti-Baptist tendencies. [This was prior to 1820.] No Baptist tracts were then printed. I was the printer of the Baptist Board of Foreign Missions at the time, and determined to propose the establishment of a Baptist Tract Society in Philadelphia, with the intention of making it the commencement of a General Society. In compliance with this design, I had two tracts set in type, as the first publications to be submitted to the society when formed.

"The subject was not matured in Philadelphia, owing to the determi-

that idea was unfolded, and embodied in organic form, we propose to show.

A few words of preliminary statement may be necessary, in order that the facts of the case may be clearly understood. At that time—the beginning of 1824—there was no National Tract Society in the United States; unless that character could be assigned in a lax sense to the Methodist Book Concern in the city of New York. That great establishment, which has done so much in feeding and building up Methodism in this country, commenced its gigantic labors in 1788, when that remarkable missionary system was in its infancy, which is now known

nation of the Baptist Convention [in April, 1820] to found a College and Theological Seminary in Washington, and to remove the publications of the Board of Missions and the Board itself to Washington. When we arrived in Washington, I proposed to found the General Tract Society here. But it was not deemed advisable at the time to do so, as all the effective Baptist force here was engaged energetically in advancing the prosperity of the College, and the publication of the Columbian Star, a weekly, religious newspaper, and the Latter Day Luminary, a magazine which was originated in Philadelphia in the year 1818, as the official publication of the Board of Missions under the authority of the General Convention.

“Although the establishment of a Baptist Tract Society was not matured in Philadelphia, it was originated there in its design, and founded on the necessity existing for such an institution. The young brethren at the Theological Institution in Philadelphia, under the care of Dr. Staughton and the Rev. Mr. Chase, knew of the design, and gave it their sanction. Ultimately it was brought into being by them in the Columbian College four years after their removal to Washington, and before my connection with the Board had terminated as printer. The first tracts were printed while I had charge of the printing establishment under the Board of Missions.

“One year before we left Philadelphia, [1819] I originated the ‘BAPTIST ALMANAC.’ This was the *first* religious Almanac ever published, I believe. Upwards of 3000 copies of it [for the year 1820] were printed, and they sold very rapidly. The whole edition was sold. The second number of it for the year 1821, was in type. It was taken with our printing office to Washington, but was not published.”

as the Methodist Episcopal Church of the United States. Besides the Book Concern, there was in the beginning of 1824 in the city of New York, another institution, called the Protestant Episcopal Tract Society, established as early as 1810. In Boston there was also the Evangelical Tract Society, dating from 1811, originated and managed chiefly by Baptists, among whom ENSIGN LINCOLN was distinguished for his zeal and activity. There was also in the same city a Congregational Institution, founded in 1814, at Andover, as the New England Tract Society, but reorganized in 1823, at Boston, under the more ambitious name of the "*American Tract Society;*" but, like all the others which we have named, (the Evangelical Tract Society excepted,) its operations were both local and denominational in character. Its auxiliaries were limited to the narrow field of New England, and to the Congregational Churches. It had indeed absorbed into itself when it assumed its national title, the "*Connecticut Religious Tract Society,*" formed in 1807, and the "*Vermont Religious Tract Society,*" formed in 1808, but was still confined in fact to a very narrow range, though accomplishing much good among its own denomination in New England.

Such was the provision made by the Press to meet the religious wants of this country in the beginning of the year 1824. The utility of Tracts as a medium of religious instruction had been made familiar by experience ever since the origin of the "*London Religious Tract Society,*" in 1799, of which, under God, GEORGE BURDER and JOSEPH HUGHES may be considered the principal founders. It was generally admitted that no other mode of disseminating truth presented equal facilities, or required so small an outlay for the amount of usefulness accomplished. It was seen that the United States opened a vast field, already whitening for the harvest—accessible at all points—with a

population of more than ten millions of souls—and rapidly increasing under the peaceful administration of Mr. Monroe, then President of the Union. The preaching of the Gospel was limited greatly by the want of ministers of the Gospel; by the scattered condition of a large portion of the people, and by the indifference of multitudes to the ordinary services of the sanctuary.* The circulation of Bibles, to which the formation of the American Bible Society in 1816 had given a powerful impulse, was necessarily limited by the bulk and cost of the precious volume; but Tracts by their cheapness, their simplicity, point, variety and brevity, were seen to be adapted to an unlimited circulation—reaching the most secluded dwelling,—arresting the most careless traveler by land or sea, with words of warning and of salvation—and acting as pioneers both to the missionary and the Bible.

* We copy the following statement of the Baptist churches at this time from the First Annual Report, presented in Feb. 28, 1825.

"According to the table of Associations published by the Baptist Board of Missions, there are in the United States, 3594 Baptist churches, containing about 225,000 members. The number of ministers is estimated at 2219. There are then 1375 churches without settled pastors. These churches may be computed to contain 85,000 members. It would be within the truth, to fix the number of persons who by family ties and other circumstances are attracted to the Baptist congregations, at twice that of the members. This estimate presents a total of 255,000 persons, who are deprived of regular religious instruction. Many of these churches have no stated preaching. The Sabbath is not hallowed by the service of the house of God. The ordinances of the Gospel are seldom enjoyed."

These statistics include Anti-Mission and Seventh Day Baptists, who could not together be estimated at less than 75,000. The former class, happily, does not increase, and is now no larger than it was then. Conducting this, it will be seen that there were only about 150,000 regular Baptist communicants in 1824. In 1854, they had increased to 842,000.

2. Its Origin at Washington, D. C.

The following letter from GEORGE WOOD, Esq., of Washington, D. C., the first General Agent of the Baptist General Tract Society, gives the facts of its origin and early history, in an original and authentic form.

"Washington, March 25th, 1853.

"Rev. J. Newton Brown,

"Dear Bro. : I have received yours of the 10th inst., requesting me to give you my recollections of the formation and early history of the Baptist General Tract Society. I have delayed to reply until I could make such examination as would enable me to put down the dates with all accuracy. This I am now able to do, and I give you my recollections with pleasure.

"At the time of the organization of this Society, the Columbian College was in full operation. Among the students in the senior class was my much loved friend *James D. Knowles*, who then edited the Columbian Star, a weekly paper, with signal ability and success. This paper was printed at the Columbian office in E street, at that time, next my residence. Mr. Knowles was, from necessity, much of his time in the city, and made my house his home. His 'chum' at his entrance into the college was the Rev. NOAH DAVIS, of Salisbury, Maryland. Davis left the college without graduating, and was ordained at Salisbury on the 21st of December, 1823.

"In the February following, Mr. Knowles received a letter from Mr. Davis, of which the following is an extract :—

"I have been thinking for *some time past* how a Tract Society can be got up in Washington, which shall hold the same place among the Baptists, that the American

Tract Society* does among the Congregationalists. I feel very much the necessity of having Tracts to scatter in the waste places. It is a plan of doing good but little known among Baptists. No place is more suitable for such a society, &c.'

"This was a matter of much conversation with Mr. Knowles and myself. It was seen that the agent of the society must bear the weight of it; and of all our circle there was no one but myself that was not already burdened by duties to the College, to the Board of Missions, to the Education Society; for in these days every thing centered in Washington. If I would agree to be the agent, then Mr. Knowles said he would push the matter, through the columns of the Star—and so it rested for a week or more. My health was very wretched at the time, being a confirmed dyspeptic, occasioned by my office life in Washington; but I was prevailed upon to consent. It seemed too great a matter to be delayed for want of any aid I could tender.

"Accordingly on the 21st of February, 1824, the following notice appeared in the Star:—

*** *Those persons who are disposed to assist in forming a Baptist General Tract Society in this city, are requested to meet at the house of Mr. George Wood, on Wednesday evening, (20th inst.) at 7 o'clock.*

"A meeting was held, pursuant to notice, which was presided over by the Rev. Dr. Wm. Staughton, President of the Columbian College. The constitution which had been drafted by Mr. Knowles, was offered, amended, and

* Then in Boston—not the truly national institution afterwards formed in New York.

adopted,* and the following officers were chosen for the year ensuing. I give the names, that you may see who were the active members at that day in Washington.

* This original Constitution is too important as a matter of history and reference to be omitted. We insert it here.

CONSTITUTION OF THE BAPTIST GENERAL TRACT SOCIETY. (Feb. 20th, 1824.)

ART. I. The name of this Society shall be "The Baptist General Tract Society." Its sole object shall be to disseminate evangelical truth, and to inculcate sound morals, by the distribution of tracts.

ART. II. Any person may become a member of this Society, by paying the sum of one dollar annually. The payment of ten dollars at one time, shall constitute a person a member for life.

ART. III. There shall be an annual meeting of the Society on the last Wednesday in February, when the following officers shall be chosen by ballot, viz.:—A President, Vice-President, Agent, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and a Board of Directors, consisting of the President, Vice-President, Agent, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer, who shall be Directors in consequence of their office; and seven members of the Society. Five Directors shall constitute a quorum for business. The Board shall have power to supply any vacancy that may occur in its own body.

ART. IV. The Directors shall superintend the publication and distribution of such tracts as they shall approve; the appointment of subordinate agents; the establishment of depositories; the formation of auxiliary societies, &c. They shall hold frequent meetings, under such regulations as they may adopt, in conformity with the general provisions of the Constitution. They shall appoint the place and the hour for the annual meeting of the Society; and may, if they think proper, make arrangements for an annual sermon, or public addresses, and a collection for the benefit of the Society. The Directors and the Treasurer shall make an annual report of their proceedings.

ART. V. The Agent shall conduct the correspondence of the Society, and shall carry into effect the measures adopted by the Board of Directors.

ART. VI. The Recording Secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of the Board of Directors, and of the Society. He shall receive all moneys, keep a record of them, and pay them over to the Treasurer.

ART. VII. Every member shall be entitled to receive three fourths of the amount of his subscription in tracts, at cost. Auxiliary societies shall be entitled to the same privilege.

Rev. Obadiah B. Brown, *President.*

Rev. John Bryce, *Vice President.*

Mr. George Wood, *Agent.*

Mr. Isaac G. Hutton, *Recording Secretary.*

Rev. Luther Rice, *Treasurer.*

Directors.—Rev. Wm. Staughton, Rev. S. W. Lynd, Joseph Gibson, Joseph Shaw, Enoch Reynolds, Reuben Johnson, and James D. Knowles.

“As soon as this Society was made public through the columns of the Star, it was every where welcomed by our brethren, and I at once found myself in the midst of a wide-spread correspondence. Among those who were its first and best friends, stand the names of Rev. ABNER W. CLOPTON, of Charlotte, Virginia; Rev. JESSE MERCER, of Powelton, Georgia; Rev. ELI BALL, of Lynchburg, Va.; Rev. C. D. MALLORY, of Columbia, S. C., by whose agencies auxiliary societies were formed; and on the 11th of December, 1824, ‘Mr. Knowles, in an article concerning the Society, says—‘*The Tract Society is advancing with great zeal and success in the fulfillment of its duties. Since its organization in February last it has printed nineteen tracts, amounting to one hundred and fifty-six pages, and 86,500 copies,*’ (of which the list is given) and adds—‘*It is designed to employ active agents, as soon as possible, to assist in forming auxiliary societies to procure subscriptions, life memberships, &c., &c.*’

“It was not long before the unsuitableness of Washington as the seat of publication began to be felt. Our first

ART. VIII. Any person, by paying twenty-five dollars at one time, shall be a Director for life. The Presidents of auxiliary societies shall be ex-officio members of the Board of Directors.

ART. IX. The President shall call a meeting of the society, at the request of a majority of the Board of Directors.

ART. X. Any alterations of this Constitution may be made at an annual meeting by the concurrence of two-thirds of the members present.

tracts were not stereotyped, and our editions were soon exhausted. So it was determined to stereotype all future Tracts, as well as those already printed. To do this, the selected Tracts must needs be sent to Philadelphia; and after the Tracts were printed in Washington, nearly one half of all published were sent to Philadelphia to be shipped to Charleston, Savannah, and elsewhere. And here I beg to acknowledge the services of Mr. Simmes, apothecary, in Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, by whom all boxes and bundles were received and forwarded without compensation; for all services rendered to the Society in those days were without compensation. I have never seen Mr. Simmes, nor do I know if he be living now.

"It was the aim and ambition of our great and gifted LUTHER RICE to make Washington a Baptist centre of influence. And if matters of money, of which he knew nothing, had been under the control of men of business talent, who had been taught in the science of book-keeping, (which no man can acquire without practice after thirty years of age,) then the foresight and far-reaching sagacity of brother Luther would ere this have been demonstrated in the moral influence we as Baptists would exert over a wide-spread union of States. Every body in and near our city went for centralization, and our little Baptist General Tract Society, when organized, became part and parcel of brother Luther's grand scheme; and no embarrassments in the successful working out of the plans and purposes of this Tract Society in the city of Washington was to be regarded. To talk of removing this Society to Philadelphia, was a sort of treason, and I was the first to talk of it; for I was the first to feel the necessity of its removal. It seemed to me not only inexpedient to retain it here, but a great wrong done to the cause, to restrain the usefulness of a Society so admirably adapted to a wide sphere of ever-increasing usefulness.

"At the Annual Meeting held on the 28th of February, 1825, I made an earnest effort to induce the members in Washington to agree to a removal. I made a full and fair representation of all the trouble I had had in sending tracts away; the delay for want of a packet vessel and of lines of transportation; and the discontent existing among the auxiliary societies at the slowness of publication and of distribution; but all these statements were unavailing. It was with great reluctance I consented to act as Agent for the year ensuing. In this year (1825), the affairs of the College became more and more embarrassed, and loss of confidence in the College affairs, of which Luther Rice was Agent and Treasurer, extended to the concerns of the Baptist General Tract Society. My position as Agent became more and more painful. I was weary of writing letters of explanation and apology.

"At the close of the second year, Rev. NOAH DAVIS, who was a Mr. Greatheart in his day, deeply realizing the necessity of a change of locality, came up to see me, and offered to assume the office of Agent, if the Society was removed to Philadelphia; for our brethren there had been consulted and were ready to accept all its duties and responsibilities. A meeting was held at my house, and the question was presented to the Officers and Directors present; but though the monied affairs of the College were dark and desperate, and fast approaching the SLOUGH OF DESPOND into which they were soon after plunged (but out of which they are now happily emerging), Luther Rice, with his lion-hearted courage and confidence in the greatness of his strength, would not consent to the removal. As a last resort, hoping to compel a change, I resigned the Agency, which had been only fruitful, to me, of toil and suffering. The office of Agent was taken by Rev. BARON STOW (now of Boston), who held it for a short time. But the end in Washington was at hand. It was seen that there could be

no postponement of the question—removal or annihilation—and the earnest entreaties of NOAH DAVIS were at last successful.

"With regard to the history of the Society from the time of its removal to Philadelphia, you need no aid from me in remembering its developments. It has far exceeded my hopes. Its operations have been growing wider and wider, and taking a loftier range. I rejoice in all I hear of of its success, and hope the circle of its usefulness will only be bounded by the wants of mankind.

"With great regard, yours,

—
"GEORGE WOOD."

3. Progress in 1824. Original Principles, and Views of its Founders.

The above communication from the first Agent of the Society is invaluable, as giving an authentic account of the origin, and progress of the Society, for the first three years, together with the causes and means of its removal from Washington to Philadelphia, late in the Fall of 1826. But it is necessary to go beyond this general view in a history like this, and enter into the actual details and spirit of the times. Happily we are able to do this from published records.

The first Tract issued by the Baptist General Tract Society in 1824, contained its Constitution, and the names of its Original Officers. As we have seen, Rev. O. B. Brown was President; Mr. George Wood, Agent; Rev. Luther Rice, Treasurer; and Rev. Dr. Staughton, President of the Board of Directors. It also contained a Circular addressed by the Board to the public, setting forth its objects, aims, and claims, from which we extract the following:

"The Baptists of this country have hitherto had little

agency in the distribution of Tracts. The principal reason is probably to be found in the absence of a General Society, as a common centre of action. Men, in all circumstances, are less interested, and co-operate less readily, in the measures of those with whom they have remote connections, than of those to whom they are united by common principles and kindred feelings. This is a law of our nature; and hence were nothing to be apprehended from variance and distrust, it would still be advisable to leave the several denominations of Christians to concert and execute their own schemes for the advancement of their common faith. Particular occasions may call for united action. Bible Societies, which aim merely to multiply copies of the great charter of our religion, have a special claim on the cordial aid of all Christians. But most of the benevolent enterprises of the age, have been originated and sustained by individual sects, which have selected for themselves a particular station in the field, and have rallied at that point all their forces. A much greater number of individuals have thus been brought to act, in the numerous offices of trust and toil, necessary to carry forward these enterprises. A greater extent of influence is consequently at work. The partialities, and even the sectarian feelings, which operate on the minds of most men, are thus made tributary to the common object. Individuals act mutually on each other, and a chain of communication is formed, conveying the animating impulse to every family and every bosom.

"The preceding remarks are particularly applicable to Tract Societies. Tracts are either summary expositions of Christian doctrines and precepts, or narratives of the effects of Christian principles. They are compiled by men, and consequently receive some shape and color from the minds of their authors. The true Christian is naturally desirous to be assured, before he circulates a Tract, that it contains the truths that are taught in the Scriptures. The interest,

therefore, which he will take in the operations of a Tract Society, is proportional to the confidence he feels in the correctness of the sentiments of its Managers. It is scarcely necessary to state the inference, that the several denominations of Christians cannot be expected to engage vigorously in the distribution of Tracts, until they form Societies and print Tracts for themselves. These are the leading motives for the formation of the ‘Baptist General Tract Society.’ Experience had shown the necessity of an association of this kind. A general and harmonious system of operations cannot be formed, without a central Society.—Therefore the Board of Directors confidently believe that this Society will secure the good wishes and receive the co-operation of their brethren.

“The object of the Society, as stated in its Constitution, is ‘to disseminate evangelical truth, and to inculcate sound morals, by the distribution of Tracts.’ The Tracts will, for the most part, be confined to practical subjects; but the Directors will feel themselves at liberty to advocate, occasionally, with Christian candor, the doctrines and forms which Baptists believe and practice.

“The Board appeal with confidence to the pious zeal of their brethren, to aid them in their efforts to fulfill the duties of the Society. They earnestly invite them to form auxiliary Societies, to make donations to the funds, to become Life Members, and in any other way to lend their assistance.”

At the same time the following Resolutions were passed and published by the Board of Directors :

“*Resolved*, That any member of the Society, or of its auxiliaries, may recommend to the Board Tracts for publication, which, if approved by the Publishing Committee, shall be printed by the Society.

“*Resolved*, That the members of the Society, and of its auxiliaries, as well as other persons, be requested to com-

municate to the Board, through the several Agents, or otherwise, any well authenticated instances of the beneficial effects of Tracts, to be published in the Reports of the Society."

The Agent, Mr. GEORGE WOOD, also issued a circular to the same effect, soliciting general co-operation in its design, and inviting active correspondence.

The pamphlet (Tract No. 1) containing the above extracts, Resolutions and Circular, was closed by an Appendix, showing by various examples the usefulness of Tracts. Some of the suggestions need to be repeated, now that our Society has more than two hundred different Tracts on its Catalogue. "Their effects have been manifested," it says, "in the conversion of sinners to the faith of the Gospel; the reformation of the vicious; and the enlightening of the ignorant.

"*Sabbath Schools* are particularly calculated to give circulation to Tracts. These may be distributed as rewards to the Scholars, and thus they will probably be read by the Scholars themselves, and by their parents.

"*Domestic Missionaries* can distribute Tracts in their progress, and thus convey instruction to those whom they cannot personally visit, and give a deeper impression to the truths which they preach.

"*Destitute Churches* may very profitably be supplied with Tracts. Instruction and comfort may thus be obtained, where the word of life is not regularly preached.

"*Ministers of the Gospel* have frequent opportunities to disperse Tracts under favorable circumstances. In their journeys and pastoral visits, they never should be unprovided with suitable tracts.

"*Every individual* has daily opportunities to distribute Tracts. If every one should carry a few tracts with him constantly, and give them to persons likely to profit by them, it is impossible to calculate the benefit which might

result. The Bible is but a collection of Tracts, divinely inspired, but written by different men, and in different ages and countries.

"The infidels of France, during the Revolution, published their doctrines in the form of Tracts, for the purpose of extensive circulation. Christians adopted the same expedient, and incalculable good has been the consequence. The London Religious Tract Society was established in 1799. It has published (in twenty-five years) more than 50,000,000 of Tracts. The American Tract Society (of Boston) more than 3,000,000 of Tracts (in ten years) since 1814. Other Societies in this country about 2,000,000 more."

From the same pamphlet we quote a single short paragraph more, on constituting ministers and others life-members.

"The sum of ten dollars, is sufficient to constitute a person a member for life. It is customary for the members of congregations, and particularly the ladies, to make their ministers members for life. It is a graceful compliment, which costs little, and is an essential aid to the Society. If one or two spirited individuals in a congregation would use a little exertion, the small sum required could, in most cases, be easily obtained."

In reviewing historically, at this distance of time, the above statement of the principles on which the Baptist General Tract Society was founded in 1824, we may profitably compare it with the views put forth by Baptist brethren in Great Britain, in their more recent organization for the same end. We quote from the "First Annual Report of the Baptist Tract Society," London, 1842.

"Dear brethren, the design with which this Society has been formed, is to assist in publishing the Gospel, to aid in proclaiming the glad tidings, that 'he who believeth and is baptized shall be saved,'—and the solemn warning, that

'he who believeth not shall be condemned,' with the design to teach its doctrines, precepts, and ordinances, in that simplicity and purity, without addition or diminution, severance or change. Those who founded it were guided as to its constitution by the views they entertain as Calvinistic and strict (communion) Baptists. Convined that their sentiments are scriptural, and that no part of Scripture ought to be kept back, they felt it a duty to provide for their promulgation. They were far from wishing to fetter the consciences of others, but felt it was due to their own, thus to act. There was no Society for the publication of Tracts in which these sentiments could be fully expressed; and while they rejoice in the good effected by other agencies, they felt that the systematic publication of our sentiments in such a form was too important a means of usefulness to be longer neglected.

"They confidently hope, that, through the blessing of God, this Society will be useful both to our own body, and beyond it. Beyond our body there are reasons for the formation of such a society, in the importance of which, every Baptist will concur. In the churches of Rome and England, infant baptism is declared to regenerate and save, and thus millions around us, dead in trespasses and sins, are constantly deluded to their destruction. From those who are thus deluded, ministers of the gospel are ordained, most of whom, depending on that sacramental efficacy which this rite first taught them, teach and enforce it as the only certain way to life, and blinded themselves, perish with the blind they lead. Among Dissenters, it is combined with the doctrine of hereditary holiness; of participation in the blessings of the new covenant by parentage instead of faith; with them, as with the Church of England, it gives to infants and the unregenerate, a standing in the Church of the Saints of the Most High, and divides with the world the visible kingdom of God's dear Son.

"Nor is it easy to calculate the amount of support which their practice affords to the whole of the superstitions of the Church of Rome. Certain it is that to this practice that Church continually appeals in proof, that even Protestants do not make the Bible, and the Bible only, their religion. Were but this 'pillar of popery' destroyed, the fabric itself would probably totter to its fall. We entreat those of our brethren who do not concur with us on the subject of communion, to unite with us in endeavoring to destroy this wide-spread evil. Is it not by the *truth* as well as by the *power* of God that it will be finally accomplished? With the prayer that this Society, in all its measures, may be blessed to glorify God, to show forth the greatness of his wisdom, and the riches of his grace, it is now submitted, dear brethren, to your approval, co-operation, and support."

"The object of this Society," adds the Committee in its Address, "like that of the 'Religious Tract Society,' is to disseminate the 'pure truth' of God's holy word, but more especially those parts of it on which the constitution of the latter society precludes it from entering. The rules of the 'Religious Tract Society' restrict its operations to subjects on which Protestants agree; leaving it to each denomination to promote by its own separate instrumentality, whatever on these points it believes to be the truth as it is in Jesus. To supply this supplemental agency, as it respects our own denomination, is the object of the 'Baptist Tract Society.' *Every word* of God is pure, and were the sentiments which distinguish us much less important than we believe them to be, love and duty to our Redeemer would still oblige us to endeavor their universal diffusion."

It is gratifying thus to find the convictions which were uttered by the founders of the 'Baptist General Tract Society' in 1824, so fully responded to, both in word and deed, almost twenty years later, across the broad Atlantic.

England indeed, gave us the glorious example of religious Tract Societies, built on the basis of our common faith, and binding different denominations of Christians in the bond of brotherly concord ; but *denominational* Tract Societies, seeking to carry out the Great Commission of Christ as we understand it in "all things whatsoever," are the native products of the free American mind, conscience, and heart. They can become *sectarian*, only when they "make void the commandments of God," by a blind zeal, in imposing upon unenlightened consciences the traditions of men. If some denominational concerns of this sort are justly liable to such a charge in the sight of the Great Judge, let us see to it carefully that we secure the full benefit of such an institution, free from corruption and abuse. "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty."

4. First Annual Meeting, 1825.

The Baptist General Tract Society held its first annual meeting in the city of Washington, Feb. 28, 1825. The first Annual Report of the Board of Directors was prepared and read on that occasion, by James D. Knowles, then Editor of the Columbian Star. It was approved and accepted for publication. On motion of Rev. Luther Rice, seconded by Rev. Dr. Staughton, it was resolved that the thanks of the Society be presented to the Auxiliary Societies, and to State Conventions, Associations, and Churches, as well as to all individuals, who have recommended and otherwise assisted its objects. Brief addresses were made by the Rev. Messrs. Lynd, Rice, and Staughton, by Mr. Baron Stow, and by Dr. James M. Staughton. Rev. O. B. Brown was again chosen President, Rev. Samuel Cornelius, Vice President, George Wood, Agent, and Rev. Luther Rice Treasurer for the ensuing year. It

appears from the Report, that the Society during the first year of its existence, printed 85,500 copies of 19 Tracts; established 10 central Depositories, and 38 Auxiliary Societies. Receipts, \$373.80; Expenditures, \$582.44. The sums due from the Depositories, together with stock on hand, amounted to \$308.64, leaving a balance in favor of the Society of \$100. Twenty-five gentlemen had engaged to act as volunteer Agents. The Tracts were every where well received, and numerous letters addressed to the Officers of the Society, testified in earnest and emphatic language, the wants of the community, and the fitness of Tracts to supply them. Few combinations of men for benevolent exertion, it was thought, had a stronger hold on the public favor.

"Not the least advantage of Tracts," says the Annual Report, "is that they enable every man to become a preacher of righteousness. The traveler, by distributing them along his road, may gladden many a solitary place. Timely advice, and effectual reproof, are often administered by silently presenting a Tract, where open expostulation would be received with resentment or derision.

"But the Directors wish to keep distinctly in view that this is a Baptist Tract Society, established with a special reference to the condition of the Baptist denomination. They entertain a fraternal regard for other Tract Societies, and a respectful sense of their useful services. They consider this Society not in any respect as a rival, but as a zealous coadjutor, occupying a station which no other Society can so properly and so successfully fill.

"There is another consideration, which will not be deemed unimportant by any Baptist who partakes of the spirit of the age. It is desirable to produce among the members of the denomination, a closer union than has yet subsisted. While they have been united in faith and fellowship by the bond of peace, supplied by their attachment

to ‘one Lord, one faith, and one baptism,’ the vast extent of the country, and the independent form of our church government, have operated to estrange them as individuals. Differences of opinion too, in reference to various points of Christian obligation and policy, have aided to present serious obstacles to all measures of common concern. The leading designs which a portion of the denomination are laboring to effect, (Sabbath School, Bible, and Missionary efforts,) are regarded by other portions with indifference or disapprobation. It becomes, therefore, a matter of great moment to devise some project which may, as far as possible, kindle the zeal, animate the prayers, and prompt the united efforts of the denomination. The Directors are convinced that the General Tract Society presents an object which is fitted more than any other at the present time, to produce this desirable unanimity of counsels and exertions. No opposition has yet been manifested, and none is apprehended.”

5. Second Annual Meeting, 1826.

At the Second Annual Meeting of the Society in Washington, January 4th, 1826, it was resolved, “That the Society entertain a high sense of the indefatigable zeal with which the Board of Directors have conducted the operations of the body during the past year.” After addresses from Messrs Lynd, Cornelius, and Stow, the same Directors and Officers as before were re-elected, with a single exception—Mr. Enoch Reynolds taking the place of Mr. Rice as Treasurer.

The Annual Report says, “While we have been careful to preserve the credit of the Society, and have limited the circulation of Tracts to the extent of our present means, we have been intent upon multiplying the number of our

Auxiliaries—soliciting life-memberships—engaging everywhere the co-operation of the benevolent, and thus embodying as far as practicable the efforts of our denomination.” The receipts for the year were \$636.53, besides \$509.43, in dues and stock—total, \$1,145.96, nearly double those of the first year. Tracts printed, 480,000 pages; distributed, 587,764 pages; on hand, 51,564 pages. After paying all expenses, the balance in favor of the Society was \$310.10; adding the value of the stereotype plates, it amounted to \$401.82. The Auxiliaries amounted to 30; Life-memberships, 5; Central Depositories, 10.

In summing up these results, the Directors say, “We have thus been enabled to accomplish—little, indeed, compared with our wishes—little compared with the wants of our growing denomination—but enough to convince us of the perfect feasibility of our enterprise—enough to encourage and sustain us in making still greater efforts for its completion.

“*The responsibility of selecting and approving Tracts is great.* In performing this part of their duty, the Directors have endeavored, as far as possible, to obtain such as contain the leading truths of the Gospel; such, for instance, as the depraved and lost condition of men by nature—the absolute necessity of repentance towards God, and faith in the Lord Jesus, as the all-sufficient and only Saviour. They have also felt it due to themselves, to their brethren, and to truth, to publish some Tracts, containing simple and candid expositions of their peculiar views, together with the reasons on which they are founded. We would not publish a syllable which could offend any; unless indeed, it should offend others that we do not think and feel as *they* do.”

On the *usefulness* of Tracts, they present the following views, which cannot be too deeply pondered now.

“Cast your eye over the wide fields of the South and the West. They are already white for the harvest, but

where are the laborers? Alas, many of our churches are destitute of pastors, enjoying only occasional opportunities of hearing the word of life dispensed; and many extensive portions of our Southern, and especially of our Western States, are seldom visited by preachers of the Gospel. We cannot send them preachers, nor are they able to support them if sent. But can we not send them these silent, though efficient messengers of truth, which cost but little, and consume nothing? Can we not, at least, make a more vigorous and united effort, than we have yet done, to effect this desirable object? We have thus far been able to supply but few of the many and pressing demands for Tracts. Our brethren, who are engaged in preaching the unsearchable riches of Christ in the more settled sections of our country, would avail themselves of the aid of Tracts. They would frequently gain much by sending a Tract before them to announce their coming—by leaving one behind as a witness for them. Standing, as they often do, and overlooking a region of country beautiful in its aspect, fertile in its soil, salubrious in its climate, and becoming rapidly peopled; but in all its beauty and fertility, and salubriousness, destitute of the means of religious instruction, they solicit our aid. They cannot raise their voices so as to be heard from hill to hill, and awaken the attention of the husbandmen in the recesses of the valley; but they might despatch these faithful heralds, and cover the hills and the valleys with truth and blessing.

"It must be obvious to all, that comparatively little can be accomplished unless the funds of the Society can be augmented. *Must then the want of funds remain an insuperable obstacle to the circulation of Baptist Tracts in the United States?* We trust not. The zealous co-operation of so many of our most influential brethren already enlisted—the cheering presence of seventy-one Auxiliaries—and, above all, the promises of Him who turns the hearts

of the children of men as the rivers of water are turned, forbid the thought.

"Finally, brethren, let all who are enlisted to promote the objects of our Society, remember that they are engaged in a sacred work ;—a work calculated alike to cherish and invigorate the personal piety of those employed in it, and to extend the Christian's Faith and the Christian's Hope to thousands, who might, otherwise, never experience their consolation and power.

6. Third Annual Meeting, 1827.

For the reasons already stated in the communication of Mr. Wood, the seat of the Society's operations was transferred from Washington to Philadelphia, in the year 1826. The Depository was first opened under the care of Mr. David Clark, at No. 118 North Fourth Street.

The Third Annual meeting of the Society was held in Philadelphia, at the Sansom Street Church, January 3, 1827. After the reading of the Annual Report, addresses were made by Rev. Messrs. Brantly, Malcom, and Cushman. The services awakened a lively interest among the Baptists of "the City of Brotherly Love." The Society received a cordial welcome to its new home, and the brethren taking charge of its concerns manifested considerable spirit. The new Board of Directors chosen consisted of the Rev. John L. Dagg, *President*; Rev. Wm. T. Brantly, *Vice President*; Noah Davis, *Agent*; Philologus Loud, *Secretary*; Samuel Huggens, *Treasurer*; Rev. Elisha Cushman, T. J. Kitts, William E. Ashton, Joseph Maylin, John Hewson, Howard Malcom, David Jones, Joseph H. Kennard, with Messrs. John Davis, William Dorman, William S. Hansell, S. W. Sexton, George McCloud, George Hacker, Erasmus Thomas, *Directors*.

The Annual Report says the whole number of Tracts printed since the organization of the Society amounts to 221,100, making 2,064,000 pages. About 160,000 copies were printed in 1826 more than in 1825. Members for Life, 46; Auxiliary Societies, 88. The treasury was destitute, and an appeal was made for funds to carry on and extend the benevolent operations of the Society. Rev. Messrs. Brantly, Dagg, Cushman, Kitts, and Ashton, were appointed a Committee of Publication to select and recommend Tracts to the Board.

The American Tract Society, early in this year, made a proposition to this Society that it should become an Auxiliary to that body. The Board of Directors considered the proposition; but decided that they "had no power under the present Constitution to become Auxiliary." At the formation of the Philadelphia City Tract Society, however, about the same time, Rev. Messrs. Dagg, Brantly, and Ashton, were chosen among the Managers of the new Society, and cheerfully accepted the service, while holding the highest positions of responsibility in their own. Nor was there any inconsistency in this; as the American Society's Tracts were free from any thing that could offend the most conscientious Baptist, and were therefore deemed worthy of universal circulation.

7. Baptist Tract Magazine, 1827.

In the month of July of this year (1827), the Society began the issue at their first Depository, No. 118 North Fourth St., of the BAPTIST TRACT MAGAZINE, a monthly periodical, at 50 cents a year. Each number contained 24 pages, duodecimo. It was under the editorial care of the General Agent, NOAH DAVIS; and formed an important

means of communication with the public. It embraced also useful selections, anecdotes, and annual denominational statistics.

8. Catalogue of Tracts in 1826. Issued at Washington.

Thirty-one Tracts only had been published while the seat of the Society was in Washington; although ten more had been ordered and stereotyped, which were first issued in Philadelphia. The following is the

CATALOGUE OF TRACTS IN 1826.

	Pages.
1. Memorable Thoughts and Holy Resolutions,	12
2. Dwight on Drunkenness,	16
3. The Great Error Detected, or Self-righteousness Disclaimed,	12
4. Life of Mrs. Hamilton,	12
5. The Christian's Directory,	8
6. The Great Question Answered,	16
7. The Scriptures,	8
8. The One Thing Needful,	4
9. Man as he is and must be,	16
10. The Grace of God and a Holy Life,	8
11. The Brazen Serpent,	4
12. The Shepherd and his Flock,	20
13. The Twins,	4
14. Church Discipline,	12
15. Christian Fidelity to Friends,	8
16. Prayer for Divine Influence,	8
17. Inconsistencies of Conduct,	4
18. Menno's Departure from Popery,	12
19. The Earl of Rochester,	4
20. Practical Uses of Baptism,	12
21. The Surest Way of Thriving,	8
22. Krishna Pal, the First Hindoo Convert,	16
23. The Contented Villager,	8
24. Efficacy of the Scriptures,	4
25. An Infidel Convinced by a Child,	8
26. Terms of Communion,	12

27. The Dairyman's Daughter,	24
28. Village in the Mountains,	20
29. The Swearer's Prayer,	4
30. Death of an Infidel,	8
31. Letter from a Nobleman,	4
32. History of John Wildon,	12
33. Little Martha,	8
34. Fragments of Philip Henry,	4
35. Susan the Laundry Maid,	12
36. The Progress of Sin,	8
37. Poor Joseph,	4
38. Conversion of a Universalist,	8
39. James Covey, the Sailor,	4
40. The Bible the Test of Truth,	12
41. Divine Songs for Children,	24

9. Fourth Annual Meeting, 1828.

The Society held its Fourth Annual Meeting with the New Market Street Church, January 2d, 1828. Dr. Brantly read the Annual Report of the Board of Directors, which was followed by Addresses from Messrs. J. L. Dagg, D. Jones, W. T. Brantly, E. Cushman, and Noah Davis.

The Report is full of encouragement. "We rejoice," say the Directors, "that our hearts were inclined to undertake this good work, and that the successful issue of the undertaking as thus far conducted, has even surpassed our largest anticipations. We have reason to be thankful that the Lord has rendered our distant friends and brethren so well affected towards our imperfect endeavors, and that we have been so liberally seconded by their contributions; and may we not also believe by their prayers? To ourselves we can propose no higher remuneration for the sacrifices incident to this work, than the good feelings, the moral edification, the augmented graces, the reclaimed spirits, and the growing prosperity of the church, which must all stand forth as the fruits of efforts directed, we trust, to the glory of God."

"We are not ashamed to say for ourselves and our brethren, that whilst we feel unaffected respect and goodwill towards those institutions which are designed to embody and harmonize the powers of several denominations, we are bound by the feeling of honorable consistency to cherish a warmer approbation of those plans, which stand responsible for the protection of our peculiarities as a denomination. In this view we are certainly willing to concede to others what we claim for ourselves. We shall never think the less of any class of Christians, for watching with becoming circumspection the grounds upon which they stand as a separate section of the *great whole*. Let such a course be pursued with the meekness of wisdom, and with the charity which the Gospel enjoins, and we shall see all denominations of Christians, not only loving one another with the affection of a common brotherhood, but a greater amount of good will be brought into the common treasury of the Lord."

To show how practically the Churches appreciated the motives and doings of the Board, and the establishment of the Society in its new location, it is only necessary to state that the sum received into the treasury during the year was \$3168.04;—*four times* the amount received during the preceding year, and nearly *twice* the whole amount received during the first *three* years of the Society's existence. This fact was regarded justly as "a most animating demonstration."

The Society had issued, "through the various channels of Depositories, Auxiliaries, life and annual subscribers, Sabbath-schools, sales, and gratuitous distributions," 2,619,036 pages of Tracts. It had doubled the number of its stereotype plates—making in all 432 pages; and proposed adding in time to come, at least 300 pages annually. The Tracts from No. 1 to 29, were bound into volumes of about 300 pages, which sold for fifty cents each. The number

of Depositories was 25, in fourteen different States, and in the most favorable locations. Fifty-eight new life members had been added, making in all 104; ten of whom had been made life-directors. Remittances had been received from 130 Auxiliaries. "What a desirable arrangement would it be," says the Report, "for *every* church to become an auxiliary, and thus supply all their members with those salutary and edifying discourses which go abroad in the form of Tracts!—Among no people are to be found stronger considerations for united and charitable effort, and among no people can the diffusion of religious knowledge be attended with happier effects. We may be allowed to say that our selections have all been made with care, deliberation and prayer, and that in general we regard their contents as admirably adapted to all the purposes for which they are sent forth. It should be a concern with us to send these little rills of knowledge by kind and gentle insinuations, into every channel of destitution and ignorance."

The Report closes with an animated appeal. "PASTORS of Churches! call in to your assistance these silent monitors, which may assault the repose, and sting the conscience of your people, when you are no longer in their presence. Drop them into the abodes of affliction, and thus read a consolatory lesson to the wretched and desponding. FATHERS AND MOTHERS, welcome into your houses and to your firesides these wholesome visitants. Imprint them on the memory of your children, and mingle their virtues with the dew of their youth. Teachers and magistrates, young and old, wealthy and indigent, all come to this blessed work, and lend your counsels and your prayers for the triumph of this cause. Disciples of the Redeemer, you are commanded to do good as you have opportunity to all men, and to let your light shine. Engage then all of you, with earnest diligence in the dispersion of Tracts; send them far and near, to careless sinners and sleeping saints; follow them

with your supplications to the Spirit of Grace, and the great day will reveal that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

Some changes were made in the Board of Directors at this Annual Meeting. Rev. Elisha Cushman was chosen President in place of Rev. J. L. Dagg, Rev. William Ballentine as a Director in place of Mr. Dorman, and Rev. Robert W. Cushman filled the vacancy occasioned by the removal of Rev. Howard Malcom to Boston. Messrs. Reuben Jurman and Wm. H. Richards took the place of Messrs. Sexton and McCloud. The others remained as before.

The former Board having recommended to the Society an additional article to the Constitution, to be the sixth, fixing the price of Tracts, the new article was adopted, as follows: "Art. 6. Life and Annual Subscribers shall be entitled to one *half* the amount of their payments in Tracts, at *twelve* pages for one cent. Auxiliary Societies shall be supplied at the same rate. Sabbath-Schools and members of the General Society, shall be allowed to purchase Tracts, for gratuitous circulation, at that price. Other cash sales shall be made at *ten* pages for a cent." A clause was also inserted in the fifth article of the Constitution, giving the Board power to "grant special privileges to other Societies, if they deem it expedient." These changes were agreed to unanimously.

10. Statistics.

In the Baptist Tract Magazine for January, 1828, we find a Table of the regular Baptist Associations in the United States and British Provinces of North America, filling seven pages, and embracing their dates, times of meeting, correspondents, number of churches, ministers,

and members, with the number added in 1827, as far as could be ascertained. The total given is 195 Associations—3,852 Churches—2,487 Ministers—17,405 Baptized—and 249,460 Members. This Table, however, includes not only the Baptists of the British Provinces and the Anti-Mission Baptists; but also the Seventh Day Baptists—which are not now usually included, and which then embraced 82 Churches—70 Ministers—518 Baptized—and 6,462 Members. If these last be deducted, the number of Regular Baptists in the United States in 1827, Anti-Mission Baptists included, will be 3,770 Churches—2,417 Ministers—16,883 Baptized—and 242,998 Members: or as *one* member of our Churches to *forty-six* of the population of the United States, reckoned at eleven millions. In 1851, the proportion was as *one* to *thirty*, showing a gain in the ratio of our membership upon the population in twenty-four years, of full one-third—the population being 23,263,498, and the membership 772,216. These last figures are taken from the American Baptist Register of 1852, issued by the American Baptist Publication Society.

And here it seems proper to remark, that up to the year 1828, there had been no regular provision for ascertaining the number and progress of our churches, from year to year, nor for maintaining a general correspondence among them. The tables of John Asplund, in 1792, and of Mr. Benedict, in his first History of the Baptists, published in 1813, had been collected with incredible toil, at the distance of twenty years from each other; and no attempt of the kind was again made until 1824, when the Board of Missions of the Baptist Triennial Convention, for its own use, procured, as far as possible, returns of the Associations for that year, and published them early in 1825. In the first Annual Report of the B. G. Tract Society, the total returns of 1824 are put down at 225,000 members in 3,594 churches, with 2,219 Ministers. Deduct-

ing Anti-Mission Baptists, the membership certainly could not exceed 200,000, or *one-fiftieth* of the population of the United States. This document was of course very imperfect. So indeed, confessedly was the Table for 1827, in the Baptist Tract Magazine; but it had the merit of beginning a regular system, which has been continued to this day. It was at the time accompanied with the following generous proposition: "The Board of Directors of the General Tract Society think it desirable, if possible, to have an Annual Account of our denomination, and are willing to be at the trouble and expense of preparing and publishing it, *if our brethren will furnish the materials*. We wish to hold a correspondence by an exchange of our Reports for their Minutes, with all the Associations in the country, and do again request them to favor us with a copy of their Minutes *annually*. They are desired to appoint a Correspondent, whose name and post-office should be printed or written on them. Where Associations neglect our request, it is hoped *some one who feels interested in the object will send Minutes voluntarily*.

"If the Clerks of the Associations, or those who prepare Minutes for the press, would *in all cases* make up the totals of Churches, &c., it would aid us very much in compiling the table. Frequently there are other Ministers belonging to the Churches *besides those in the delegation*. A note might be added stating the whole number of ministers in the body. It would be easy, also, by comparing with the previous year's account, to show on the Minutes the net increase or decrease. By these means the tables could be made more perfect. If the Minutes are headed 'The — Annual Meeting, or Anniversary of the — Association' —it is an easy method of recording the age of the body."

The above suggestions are equally important now as then.

11. Fifth Annual Meeting, 1829.

The *Fifth Annual Meeting* of the Society was held with the First Baptist Church, in Philadelphia, Jan. 7. 1829. The Annual Report of the Board was read by Rev. Noah Davis, the General Agent. It opens in a strain of devout acknowledgment to God for special prosperity.

"The experiment seems now to have been fully made, and strong proof obtained, that this Society can exist and operate with great effect for the benefit of our churches, and the promotion of the general cause of religion. The measure of support which has been afforded in the last twelve months, gives strong reason to hope that our brethren will not cease, but with their lives, to co-operate in advancing the objects of this institution." The amount received into the treasury, was \$5417.19 $\frac{1}{2}$, exceeding the entire receipts of the *four* preceding years united, by \$285.77. "A large portion of the funds have been derived as heretofore, from the praiseworthy efforts and liberality of females, in constituting ministers Members or Directors for life. This method of supplying the Society with the necessary means to enlarge its efforts, is so easy, and has so many interesting features connected with it, that we ardently desire the plan may be pursued until the names of all the Baptist ministers in this country shall be enrolled as Life Members or Directors of this body."

A proposition of N. R. Cobb, of Boston, in May, 1828, to give \$500, on condition that a like sum should be raised by individuals in Philadelphia, by the first of January, 1829, was promptly met, and thus brought in \$1000. A friend in Providence, (Nicholas Brown, Esq.,) gave \$200 to stereotype in tract form the Memoirs of Rev. SAMUEL PEARCE, by Andrew Fuller, and the essay of Rev. ROBERT

HALL, ON THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. It were to be wished that such examples were more appreciated and followed. "But," says the Report, "to accomplish all that it is evidently our duty to do towards supplying our churches, and country, and the world, with Tracts, a much greater amount must be transmitted to our treasury from all the sources of income. This can be done without impoverishing any one. As a fulfillment of the obligation in part, let *one thousand* persons during this year find it in their hearts to give us *ten dollars* each, and the number of our publications will be trebled in the ensuing twelve months. *The whole number of Tracts printed by this Society from the beginning, has not equaled the whole number of the members and adherents of our denomination in these United States!*"

It appears from the Report that 19 new Tracts had been added to the series, making the whole number 62. The number of stereotype plates was enlarged to 808, exclusive of plates with cuts and hymns for printing covers. About 500 copies of Volumes I. and II. had been bound and put into circulation. The number of Tracts printed during the year 1828, was 428,500, containing 5,442,000 pages, exclusive of 162,000 covers, containing 648,000 pages, being 422,000 pages more than all published in the *four* preceding years of the Society. The whole number printed from its formation, was 947,250 Tracts, containing 10,452,000 pages.

Remittances were received from 136 Auxiliaries. Three BRANCH SOCIETIES were formed, having Utica and Rochester, N. Y., and Charleston, S. C., as the centre points of their operations. "It is *mainly* to its Auxiliaries, that the Society must look for the means annually to replenish its Depository with new Tracts. Donations and Life-subscriptions are highly useful to us in creating a present supply; but they are not repeated year by year, as are the

remittances of the Societies; neither do they call for renewed issues of Tracts, and disperse them into numerous neighborhoods and families, and among all classes of the community, as do the Auxiliary Societies."

Four new Depositories had been established by the Board; but already the evils incidental to this system had become apparent in absorbing the funds of the Society; and the means of relief became matters of discussion. The Board decided henceforth to permit no sales from the Depositories *on credit*.

The TRACT MAGAZINE had already been found an important instrument in promoting the objects of the Society, by awakening and sustaining an interest in its favor. Twelve hundred copies were printed monthly, in 1828, containing together 378,000 pages. All its profits were devoted to the publication of the Scriptures and Tracts in Burmah, &c.

A beginning was made towards collecting funds for the publication of Tracts in Burmah, in the Burmese language, under the direction of the Missionaries. "Tracts can go where Bibles and Missionaries cannot," says the Report justly, "and there is reason to believe that the Head of the Church designs that much shall be done by the instrumentality of Tracts in converting the world. They can be circulated to great advantage from our Missionary stations among the Indians and in Africa. Let us open our eyes and see the work to which we are called. We invite further contributions for this specific object."

12. Manifold Usefulness of the Society.

This able Report closes with a number of interesting facts reported during the year, showing the usefulness of the Society's Tracts in the conversion of sinners; in checking

the progress of intemperance, and promoting the revival of religion—the first fruits of its future glorious harvest unto God. Had we space, we should be happy to present some of them here. One indeed we must give as a specimen.

A minister in a sea-port of Massachusetts furnished the following account: "An interesting young man, whose parents and a younger brother had recently become the disciples of Jesus, still remained himself indisposed to a serious consideration of religion; and to the grief of those who knew and loved him manifested the alarming indication of growing skepticism. A mariner from his childhood, he was at this period the master of a vessel destined for a foreign port; and, on leaving home, he received, with a contemptuous sneer, the Bible which maternal affection urged upon him. To the intimation of his jesting companions, that he might soon follow the example of his parents and brothers, in their public profession of religion, he replied, with awful imprecations on himself if that should be. A few weeks bore him far away from those friends whose delusion he affected to despise. He was on the trackless ocean with no Christian near him. But God was there; and now, for the first time, he became convinced of His power, and wisdom, and justice; and with this conviction came the overwhelming consciousness of his delinquency and danger. He opened the word of God, but it spoke his deserved and aggravated condemnation. He fell on his knees before the Most High, but the imprecations of past years terrified his soul, and seemed to drive him from the mercy seat. For five days his agony of spirit increased, and he was trembling on the borders of despair. At this critical period he found a small parcel of long neglected Tracts. *The Great Question Answered*, arrested his immediate and earnest attention. The first caution there given against some of the principal dangers of an awakened soul,

exactly met his own case, and the selection of scriptures there adduced, kindled the first ray of hope in his darkened soul, that even for him there might be pardon ; that pardon he sought and found, and its peace and joy were shed abroad in his heart. You can imagine with what feelings his father met him on his return ; no more a scoffer, but a disciple of that faith which lately he despised." The writer adds, " Go on then, my brethren, go on and prosper, till those on the land and on the sea all have some of the truths of salvation, which your Tracts so richly furnish."

Several changes were made in the Board at this anniversary. Morgan J. Rhee became Recording Secretary, and Messrs. Thomas Brown, John H. Smith and Philologus Loud, took the place of Messrs. Ashton, Kitts and Hacker, in the Board of Directors.

The statistical table published in the Magazine, showed an *increase* in 1828 of 17 Baptist Associations, 204 Churches, 335 Ministers, 29,031 Baptized, and 33,921 Members over the preceding year. The returns were more full, but still far from perfect. " If we had perfect returns, the number baptized would, we think, prove to be nearer forty than twenty-nine thousand." Some minutes do not give the baptisms, nor the totals of the churches, nor distinguish the names of ministers. The manner of printing the minutes is capable of much improvement. They should be *all of the same size*, viz., *octavo*; the totals should be counted up, and the ministers distinguished by some mark"—whether ordained, or only licentiates. " A more general correspondence among the associations by mail, is now easy. In this way interesting intelligence and judicious plans of doing good, may be widely diffused among the churches."

These extracts illustrate in how many ways the Society was operating as a vital organ of union and improvement

to the denomination—including at that time, it was estimated, a population of two millions of souls.

13. Sixth Annual Meeting, 1830.

The Society held its *Sixth Annual Meeting*, with the Fifth Baptist Church, Philadelphia, Jan 6, 1830. The Annual Report was read by the Agent, Noah Davis; and announced with becoming gratitude “the uninterrupted harmony and prosperity” of their labors through another year.

Several pages are devoted to an exhibition of interesting instances of the blessings conferred by means of the Society’s Tracts during the year. The Tracts particularly honored were No. 47, “*Examine your State;*” No. 52, “*The Nature and Importance of Repentance;*” No. 43, “*The Conversion of Andrew Fuller;*” and his tract, No. 6, “*The Great Question Answered;*” No. 30, “*The Death of an Infidel;*” and No. 4, “*The Life and Experience of Mrs. Hamilton.*” The Report remarks, “it is so cheering to our hearts to obtain this kind of evidence of the favor of our Lord, we hope our brethren in every part of the country will be ready to communicate to us a knowledge of all such instances as may become known to them. It deserves to be mentioned to the praise of God, that the accounts of conversions effected by means of Tracts, which are constantly published in the magazines and reports of the American and London Tract Societies, are very numerous, and show abundantly that it is a chosen method by which the Holy Spirit is turning the hearts of many of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just. Perhaps it is safe to say that there is no class of human writings, which produces so great and extensive results of spiritual good, and obtains so many testimonies of divine approbation as Tracts.”

The receipts for the year—all from regular sources—in a season of unusual pressure, were \$5,536.39; the appropriations, \$5,641.06. “The business of the year,” says the Report, “has been conducted without embarrassment. The Board has been able at all times to keep a full supply of Tracts on hand, and pay the bills for paper, printing, &c., as they have been presented; so that the balance due from the Society for its various purposes, is not greater than it was at the close of 1828. This has been in part the result also of a rule which the Board passed about a year ago, requiring *payment for Tracts on delivery*. The propriety and wisdom of this measure we had no reason to doubt.

A legacy of \$200, from “a sister in the Lord,” in Connecticut, was received.

Twenty-six new Tracts, from No. 63 to No. 88, containing 304 pages, were added to the series. “Besides these, by an arrangement with the publishers of “*Wisdom’s Voice to the Rising Generation on Intemperance*,” brethren Clopton and Ball of Virginia, the Society came into possession of the plates of that useful and important work. It contains 180 pages, which added to 1112 pages included in the regular series of Tracts, makes in the whole 1292 pages of stereotype plates.” The number of Tracts printed during the year, was 446,750, containing 4,941,000 pages. “Our Tracts are selected with reference to permanent utility, and are worthy of preservation for many years to come. A minister of Massachusetts in writing to the Agent says, of our tract, No. 80, ‘*The Backslider*, by Fuller, is one of the best things he ever wrote, or you ever published.’”

Seven new Depositories were opened in important towns, three of them only at the expense of the General Society; the others by liberal friends of the cause in the several localities. “This,” says the Report, “is the true plan of establishing Depositories of Tracts; and if these examples should be followed, our Tracts will soon become accessible

to all the churches of our Lord, throughout the length and breadth of the land."

Two additional Branch Societies were formed at PORTLAND, Me., and HARTFORD, Conn. "This increases the number to five, which have their own auxiliaries and manage their own Depositories. The whole number of Auxiliary Societies, including the branches, from which remittances were received in 1829, is *one hundred and sixty-three*. The whole number engaged in circulating our Tracts, *three hundred and twenty-two*. In order to secure the permanence and usefulness of them all, we venture to suggest the desirableness of appointing from the members of each a band of active male and female collectors, to assist the Agent in obtaining subscribers and circulating Tracts; and that they make vigorous efforts not only to induce the members of the Churches to subscribe; but, also, all others whom they can, whether professors of religion or not; as thus the Gospel may be often conveyed into families and neighborhoods to which we cannot extend scarcely any other instrumentality. The quarterly distribution of the Tracts among the subscribers, instead of delivering them all at once, will also be found a happy expedient for securing the reading of them, and keeping alive an interest in the subject."

14. Tracts for every Church.

The most important feature of this year's Report is that which records the noble effort of the Society, which they entitle, TRACTS FOR EVERY CHURCH. "At the monthly meeting of the Board in April, it was resolved to supply every Baptist Church in the United States, *that had not supplied itself*, with Tracts from No. 1 to No. 54, making 600 pages, *gratis*, on application of a minister or a deacon of

each Church, as specimens of our publications; with the hope that they would so approve of them as to make efforts to obtain others—not only of those numbers, but of the whole series. It was believed that there are at least 4,000 Baptist Churches in the United States and British Provinces, that had not seen our Tracts; and although the effort appeared a great one for our means, yet in reliance on the favor of God and the aid of his people, the resolution was adopted. In July the Agent addressed a circular to all the Associations, requesting them to lay the subject before the Churches, that they might order the Tracts of the Agents of our Depositories. Many of them have passed resolutions approving the plan and objects of the Society, and recommending the Churches to receive our donation and form Societies for the further circulation of them. *Four hundred and fifty* Churches have applied for Tracts. The number of pages issued gratis to these is 270,000."

The Statistical Table in the Magazine, shows an *increase* for the year 1829 of 16 Associations, 328 Churches, 92 Ministers, 18,804 Baptized, and of 21,446 Members. The returns on the column of Baptism as compared with that of the Members, shows the deficiency of the Minutes in this particular. The same is true of the column of Ministers. Yet manifest improvements in the mode of printing the Minutes are recognized with pleasure. "It is also very gratifying to discover that so many of the Associations are beginning to make efforts to fulfill the design of their organization by abounding in good resolutions and actions. We hope the time will soon come when it will be no longer necessary to form such a portion of the members of our Churches as may be found willing to aid in the enlargement of the kingdom of Christ, into Societies for the purpose, but when Church Members will become so deeply imbued with the Spirit of the Gospel, that all of them will be of one heart and of one soul in the business; and make it as

it must be the greatest object of their lives to make known by every possible means the rich grace of Him who has redeemed us from everlasting woe, and prepared for us a kingdom and a crown that shall never fade away."

A list of all the Baptist Ministers in the United States and British Possessions, as far as it could be ascertained, was published in the Tract Magazine for January, in connection with the Associations to which they belonged.

15. Sabbath Schools.

A suggestion is made in reference to Sabbath-Schools at this time too pregnant to be overlooked. Several Associations were beginning to request from the Churches regular returns of the Sabbath Schools connected with them, and to print them in their Minutes. On this fact it is observed, "If this plan should be *universally* adopted, we shall be able to make up an annual account of the whole number of Sabbath Schools, teachers and scholars connected with the Baptist Churches in the United States. This would be a very interesting and important item of intelligence. The time may come when the number of schools in our denomination will be so great as to require the Tract Society to publish a series of *Sabbath School books suited to their wants.*" An anticipation fulfilled within ten years, by the reorganization of the Baptist General Tract Society under the name of the AMERICAN BAPTIST PUBLICATION SOCIETY.

THE YOUTH'S MAGAZINE AND PARENT'S OFFERING, which had heretofore made the first part of the TRACT MAGAZINE, was at this time put up also in a separate form of 12 pages, and sold for 25 cents a year.

At this Anniversary, Rev. William T. Brantly was chosen President in place of Rev. Elisha Cushman, re-

moved to Connecticut; and Messrs. T. J. Kitts, W. E. Ashton, Joseph Cone, J. R. Dodge, Wilson Jewell, John Mulford, Jr., and J. K. Hillegus, were chosen to fill vacancies in the Board of Directors. All the rest were re-chosen.

16. Death of Rev. Noah Davis.

The active mind of NOAH DAVIS which was thus giving form and quickening impulse to all the operations of the Society, was, alas, soon withdrawn from earth. This was the last anniversary he was permitted to cheer and animate by his presence; the Report which he then read, was the last he ever penned. In the month of July, following, he was suddenly called to his heavenly reward. Is it too much to say that he left the Society, and the denomination, "all light, all on fire, by the potent contact of his own spirit?"

17. Seventh Annual Meeting, 1831.

The Society held its *Seventh Annual Meeting* with the First Baptist Church, in Second Street, Philadelphia, January 5th, 1831.

The Annual Report was read by R. W. Cushman, by whom, at the request of the Board, it had been prepared. It is devoted to giving an account of "WHAT WE HAVE DONE; WHAT WE HAVE SUFFERED; AND WHAT WE MUST Do."

WHAT WE HAVE DONE.

"We have increased our series by an addition of sixteen new Tracts, comprising 244 pages, and have thus extended our number from 88 to 104. The number of pages *printed* during the year is 2,427,000. The number *issued* from

the Depository is 2,688,364. The number *remaining* on hand is 1,601,800."

In reference to the liberal offer made to the churches in 1829, it is said, "although only 631 churches out of nearly 4000, have as yet availed themselves of the offer, the accounts we have received of their influence in enlisting friends in the cause of Tracts, in leading to the formation of Auxiliary Societies, and in augmenting our funds, (to say nothing of their benefit to the souls of those who have read them,) amply justify the measure of their gratuitous distribution."

To obviate other difficulties, to "place our publications as directly as possible within the reach of individual subscribers, and to diffuse more extensively a knowledge of their character, the Board resolved in April last, to issue their Tracts *periodically*; so that falling under the character of a periodical publication, they might be transported *by mail*, at the rate of postage affixed to periodical publications, which is about one-third of that to which they would otherwise be subjected."

The editorship of the MAGAZINE, after the decease of Rev. NOAH DAVIS, was committed to the Rev. WM. T. BRANTLY.

"WHAT WE HAVE SUFFERED."

"This Society has experienced a most unanticipated arrest, during the past year, in the increasingly rapid progress she was making in strength and activity. Until the present year our receipts have been regularly increasing from year to year. The first year after the removal to this city, its receipts were \$3,158; the second year, \$5,256; and the third, \$5,585; and if their increase the past year had been in proportion equal to that of the preceding year, we should now have had to report more than \$5,830, placed at the disposal of the Society, and converted by the blessing

of God into vehicles of light and salvation for our churches and our country. But instead of realizing the anticipations which we so confidently cherished at our last Anniversary, *our receipts have fallen short of those of the preceding year*: being only \$3,094.09, which is \$2,735.91 less than they proportionally should have been.

"The main cause of this diminution is to be found in the death of the Society's General Agent. A dispensation of Providence, the severity of which your Board has deeply felt in the management of the concerns with which they have been entrusted, and which the Society too has felt through all its nerves of sensibility and strength.

"Mr. Davis, confident that God had beckoned the churches of our denomination to the objects for which the Society was toiling, and that he had already set the seal of his approbation on her infant endeavors, obeyed her call while she was yet small and feeble; united his destinies with her's; took her by the hand; and with an energy and effect altogether beyond our anticipation from one so young, led her forward, and called up the energies of the denomination to her help.

"Possessing a mind unusually bold and practical; early formed habits of activity; a faith that unhesitatingly associated the especial guidance of heaven with every event and circumstance which concerned the welfare of Zion; a person and mien which challenged the attention and respect of strangers; while the openness and warmth of his heart was eminently calculated to convert acquaintance into friends, he seemed peculiarly fitted, by the 'Shepherd and Bishop of souls,' for the sphere which he filled. He was equally competent to be the Agent of the Society, and its Apostle: —to superintend the numerous details of its business at home, and to go forth through the breadth of our land, among our churches, and arouse indifference to attention; and approval to co-operation.

"From his peculiar fitness for the station, and from what appeared to be the promise of his constitution, we had anticipated for him a bright and long career of usefulness in promoting the interests of the Society. But he is gone; and in his death we have another testimony added to the providential cloud of witnesses that has hung around the path of Christianity, that her Lord, in leading her on to dominion, can dispense with the aid of the brightest and best of her sons.

"To fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Mr. Davis, your Board proceeded, after considerable, delay, to elect a successor. This delay was occasioned by the anxiety they felt to make such an election, if possible, that the Society should not suffer by the providential change in its General Agency. The Board eventually, after much inquiry and correspondence with brethren in different parts of the country, elected the Rev. IRA M. ALLEN; who had been favorably known to them as having been formerly a zealous and successful agent of the Missionary cause in the Eastern States; and, for a number of years past, and at the time of his election, Editor of one of our best religious periodicals in New England. Mr. Allen has accepted of the appointment; and recently arrived in this city, and entered on the duties of his office. During the interval between the death of Mr. Davis and the arrival of Mr. Allen, however, a period of near six months has transpired—about one half of the year—in which the labors of correspondence, &c., connected with the office, have been generously and gratuitously borne by the President of the Board."

"WHAT MUST WE DO."

After remarking that "the same circumstances in the state of our churches, and in the moral condition of man-

kind, which called the Society into existence at first, implore its energetic activity now," in supplying the wants of our own and other lands, and especially through the press just established in Burmah, the Report closes in these animated terms : "Oh ! it must never be said that a Society that has been formed in the name, and in the bosom of a denomination, and which has chosen to identify its character and existence with those of a denomination which numbers nearly 400,000 friends of truth and virtue ; and a Society whose only desire is to make those friends a thousand times as many as they are ; that such a Society is left by that denomination to languish, lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice—lest the daughters of the uncircumcised triumph.

"Up then, ye friends of truth and virtue, ye adherents of the faith which was once delivered to the saints ; ye churches and pastors ; ye fathers and mothers in Israel ; young men and maidens ; old men and children ; all of every age, and sex, and condition, wherever this report of the comparatively little this Society has been able to do for the past year, may find you, whether in our own neighborhood or in the remotest border of our land ; awake ! awake ! and lend your aid in extending the triumphs of truth, till the kingdom, and the dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the Saints of the Most High God."

The Annual Report of the Board, together with the Treasurer's Report, were accepted and ordered to be published ; after which, on motion of J. R. Dodge, seconded by R. W. Cushman, it was

"Resolved, that the increased evidence of the usefulness of Tracts, and the promotion of morality and piety, affords fresh occasion of gratitude to God, and an incitement to renewed zeal in prosecuting the objects of this Society."

The meeting was addressed by brethren Brantly, Jones,

Maylin, Dodge, and Allen. The new Board consisted of Wm. T. Brantly, *President*; John L. Dagg, *Vice-President*; Ira M. Allen, *General Agent*; Samuel Huggins, *Treasurer*; Wilson Jewell, *Secretary*; Joseph Maylin, Wm. Ballentine, David Jones, R. W. Cushman, T. J. Kitts, Wm. D. Ashton, J. R. Dodge, G. B. Perry, Morgan J. Rhees, Erasmus Thomas, Wm. S. Hansell, Wm. H. Richards, John Davis, John Mulford, Jr., Joseph Reynolds, *Directors*.

18. Monthly Tract Distribution.

The system of MONTHLY TRACT DISTRIBUTION, adopted by the Society this year, and mentioned in the Report, was thought to possess the following advantages, among others : " 1. This method is peculiarly calculated to bring divine truth in contact with every person, and particularly those who stand most aloof from every other means of religious instruction, in small portions and at successive intervals. 2. Those who engage heartily in this work will certainly reap an important advantage from it themselves, in an enlarged spirit of benevolent feeling and enterprise. 3. It will keep the churches in motion—rousing buried talents, and rubbing off the rust of indolence and ease. 4. It will prove an important auxiliary to every minister of the Gospel who patronizes it—extending the influence of his labors, reaching where he cannot visit, and filling up the sanctuary with awakened hearers of the word. It will thus abundantly repay the expense and labor which it involves ; and every church that adopts the plan, and carries it out, will be a Tree of Life to the perishing around it.

The price of the Society's Tracts, which had been *ten pages for a cent, without reckoning covers*, was now altered to conform to that of the American Tract Society,

and fixed at *fifteen pages for a cent*, the covers being counted.

Rev. C. D. Mallary, of Georgia, having offered the year before to be one of 100 persons to give each \$5 for five years, to enable the Society to employ suitable Agents to visit the churches in all parts of the United States, to promote its great objects, his plan was highly approved by the Board, and a beginning made. Paschal Carter, Thomas Teasdale, and Peter Powell were employed for several months, with good results. But the plan fell through for want of proper support.

19. Monthly Tract Publications.

The plan of Monthly Publications of New Tracts for subscribers was adopted this year for several reasons. 1. To keep subscribers and Life Members in more frequent remembrance of the Society. 2. To acquaint them monthly with its progress. 3. To save postage in sending the Tracts under the law of periodicals. The plan proved a failure. The whole receipts from this source for the first year was but \$17.

20. Eighth Annual Meeting, 1832.

The *Eighth Annual Meeting* was held with the Fifth Baptist Church, Sansom Street, Jan. 4th, 1832. Rev. W. T. Brantly in the chair. The Annual Report was read by Rev. IRA M. ALLEN, the General Agent, and adopted for publication under the direction of the Board. It was followed by the Treasurer's Report. The following resolution was presented by Dr. Jewell, and seconded by Wm. H. Richards, Esq.

"*Resolved*, That inasmuch as the field of this Society's

operations continues to enlarge, demanding both an increase of means and redoubled efforts on the part of its friends, we will exercise all our influence to enlist the energies of our denomination in its behalf, and use all our powers in procuring funds by subscriptions and donations to relieve the Society from its present embarrassments."

Rev. Joseph H. Kennard was chosen on the new Board this year, in place of Morgan J. Rhee.

From the Annual Report it appears that notwithstanding pecuniary embarrassments, fourteen new Tracts had been added to the Society's Catalogue, from No. 105 to No. 118 inclusive; that 6,020,160 pages of Tracts had been printed, of which 4,677,930 pages had been put in circulation. The receipts for the year had been \$4,506.34. In the eight years of the Society's operations up to this time, it had received in all \$23,362.06, and had issued 23,840,160 pages of Tracts. The number of stereotype plates added in the year was 438 pages—making in all, 2061 pages belonging to the Society. Five volumes of Tracts, to No. 117, had been bound; and ten half volumes, for the use of Sabbath Schools.

Eighty churches, more than half of these in Illinois, had availed themselves of the liberal offer of 1829 during this year, and had received 53,000 pages. Of the utility of this plan and its adaptation to the wants of the West, the Board had received the following testimony from an intelligent correspondent residing in that region: "The plan of giving 600 pages to each church is an excellent one for this country, and the friends in the old States ought to help in this cause. It is very important for this country, for almost every expense of religion and benevolence falls comparatively on a few individuals, and most of these struggling with the difficulties of beginning a settlement in a new country. I think I can supply one hundred churches in this way, if allowed. I assure you that a portion of the

Baptists in the West, are in a deplorable condition ; but we do not despair. We see that light, truth, and holy influence are spreading."

Fifteen hundred copies of the Tract Magazine had been issued.

The sales of stationery and books on commission at the Depository of the Society, No. 21 South Fourth Street, amounted this year to \$434.65, and the profits to \$90.50.

Of \$4,506.34, the total receipts for the year, \$500 was a legacy from Dea. JOSIAH PENFIELD, of Savannah, Ga. The expenditures of the year were \$5,447.86 ; an excess beyond receipts of \$941.52 ; making the debt of the Society, Jan. 4th, 1832, \$3,241.52. (Assets, \$7000.) This debt had been the growth of the last *four* years, in consequence of the receipts not keeping pace with the expenditures necessary to carry on the Society's operations. A proposition was made by a brother near Philadelphia to give \$100 towards liquidating the debt, provided 19 other individuals or churches would do the same within ninety days.

One additional Branch Society, making the number 6 ; and 87 new Auxiliaries, making the number actually remitting funds 222, had been formed during the year. The whole number of Depositories, including those of the Branches, with the General Depository in Philadelphia, was 37. Those at Columbus, Ga. ; Bluffdale, Ill. ; Zanesville, Ohio ; Windsor, Vt. ; and Fort Covington and Ogdensburg, N. Y., were opened within the year. The necessity of capital to keep all these Depositories fully supplied with the Society's publications was obvious.

21. Memorable Testimonies.

Rev. Peter Powell, Edward Mitchell, Harvey B. Dodge and Robert Fleming, had been employed for different

periods, as traveling agents, with good results. Mr. Powell, who spent forty weeks in the West, says in his report : " I have traveled several thousand miles in the States of Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky and Pennsylvania, and visited nearly 200 churches. Of these only one in thirteen is supplied steadily with preaching more than once a month ; and but five of the whole number more than twice in a month ; while many have no regular preaching at all.

"The Tracts of your Society's publication are so happily selected, and on such a diversity of subjects, that there is scarcely a situation in which any of the human family can be found, but you have a Tract to suit his case.

"In many instances those who are now giving liberally to the support of your Society, were either opposed to the cause, or else altogether indifferent on the subject. And what is the cause of this striking change ? It is simply this ; they were then ignorant of the character of your publications, with which they are now acquainted. They have witnessed the blessing of the Lord following their circulation wherever they have gone. They have perceived that these are some of 'the weak things which he has chosen to destroy the mighty.'

"For my part, I do most sincerely and conscientiously believe that such an anomaly is not to be found, as that of a man or woman possessing a Christian spirit, fully acquainted with your publications, and whose religious tenets accord with those of the regular Baptists, who is not *an advocate for their circulation.*"

The Annual Report of this year notices the fact, that the American Tract Society was employing *nine* Agents in the Western country, while the Baptist General Tract Society, formed a year earlier, was able to employ only *one*. The fruits of this more liberal culture of the field for the past quarter of a century are at this time strikingly apparent.

A letter from a brother in Illinois, acknowledging a donation of Tracts and Books, which had been sent him from contributions in Philadelphia and New Jersey, is worthy of preservation here, as a specimen of the feelings of Western men.

"Thanks be to God that you have opened to me another field of usefulness. I am confident that much good is in store for this region. In the whole transaction of supplying books to us, I see the hand of God as clear as noonday. I am astonished at what has been done. When I wrote you first, my heart was oppressed with gloom and despondency in view of the prospect before us. The emotions which your answer excited, I should attempt in vain to express. I resolved never again to distrust, however dark the hour. . . . Your donation is destined to exert a powerful influence over many immortal souls. The eagerness with which the children and youth listen when I read to them ; the thankfulness they manifest for the loan of a book ; and, more than all, the sensation which your letter has produced, indicate that they will produce an effect that may be felt forever.

"In no place can your Tracts be more wanted than here. Preaching of any kind is extremely rare. To-morrow is the Sabbath. Here will be heard no Sabbath bell ; and nowhere within the distance of twelve miles *at least*, will be heard the sound of the Gospel. . . . Here the man with no religious sentiment invariably devotes that day to hunting, unless a stronger inducement is laid before him to attend to something like public worship. *Never before did I so deeply feel the value of a book.* An interesting Tract, a religious periodical, or other interesting work, will call the people from the profanation of that holy day, and place them within the sound of the tidings of salvation."

22. Letter of Dr. Judson. Demand for Burman Tracts.

The claims of Burmah were enforced this year by an affecting letter from Mr. Judson at Rangoon, in which were first recorded the memorable words now grown familiar to us all.

"The Great Annual Festival is just past. During this festival I have given away nearly 10,000 Tracts, *giving to none but those who ask*. I presume there have been 6,000 applicants at the house. Some come two or three months' journey from the borders of Siam and China—‘Sir, we hear that there is an eternal hell. We are afraid of it. Do give us a writing that will tell us how to escape it.’ Others come from the frontier of Cathay, a hundred miles north of Ava

“Sir, we have seen a writing that tells us about an eternal God. Are you the man that gives away such writings? If so, pray give us one, for we want to know the truth before we die.’ Others come from the interior of the country, where the name of Jesus Christ is little known. ‘Are you Jesus Christ’s man? Give us a writing that tells about Jesus Christ.’ Bro. Bennet works day and night at the press; but he is unable to supply us; for the sale is great at Maulmain and Tavoy, as well as here. . . A spirit of religious inquiry is extensively spreading throughout the country; and the signs of the times indicate that the great renovation of Burmah is drawing near.”

In view of these Eastern and Western fields, the Board proposed to raise \$20,000 for the ensuing year; and urged upon the churches the formation of new Auxiliaries, the distribution of Tracts, and every other practicable method of co-operation in the great work of the Society.

Many instances of the usefulness of the Society’s Tracts in the course of the year, are detailed in the Annual Report.

23. Ninth Annual Meeting, 1833.

The *Ninth Anniversary* was held in the First Baptist Church, Philadelphia, Jan. 2, 1833. Rev. W. T. Brantly in the chair. The Annual Report of the Board was read by the General Agent, IRA M. ALLEN, and accepted for publication. On motion of Rev. G. F. Davis, of Hartford, Conn., seconded by Rev. S. Davis, from Clonmel, Ireland, it was.

"Resolved, that the circulation of religious Tracts is an effort of Christian philanthropy which ought not to be despised, but encouraged by increased patronage, as an important means of doing good."

Deeply interesting addresses were delivered by Brn. Southwood, G. F. Davis, S. Davis and L. Fletcher, and a collection taken of over \$100, for the benefit of the Society. The action of the Board reducing the price of the Tracts to *fifteen* pages for one cent, was sanctioned by a vote of the Society, changing the 6th Article of the Constitution. Officers for the year, Wm. T. Brantly, *President*; J. L. Dagg, *Vice President*; Ira M. Allen, *General Agent*; Wm. Ford, *Secretary*; S. Huggins, *Treasurer*; J. Maylin, D. Jones, R. W. Cushman, Wm. E. Ashton, Wm. S. Hansell, Wm. H. Richards, J. Davis, J. Mulford, Jr., J. Reynolds, J. H. Kennard, Isaac Reed, D. B. Hinman, L. Fletcher, P. Webster, W. Vandyke, *Directors*.

The Annual Report states that from a desire to extinguish the debt of the Society, only *seven* new Tracts had been issued during the year—No. 119 to No. 125 inclusive, comprising 128 pages. No. 126, "Booth's Vindication of the Baptists", had been commenced. Number of pages printed, 1,202,000. Number of pages issued from the Depository in the same time, 2,703,000; leaving still a balance on hand for future circulation of 1,452,000 pages.

In gratuitous distribution, however, more had been done than in any preceding year. Of \$572.96 received by donations for this special object, \$245 had been sent to Burmah to aid Mr. Judson in printing and distributing Tracts in Burman, besides 55,000 pages of our Tracts for circulation among the English in that country. A small appropriation had been made to colored brethren in Liberia; where, to use the language of Rev. Mr. Waring, "there was such a rush for them, that many persons went off without any." "Such presents," he adds, "will always be thankfully received and highly valued."

24. Influence of our Tracts in Germany. Rev. J. G. Oncken.

But a more important field of usefulness abroad was opened to the Society this year. Through Capt. Tubbs, a benevolent brother of Philadelphia, a few of the Society's Tracts had been put into the hands of Mr. J. G. ONCKEN, of Hamburg, Germany. Information having been received by a letter from him of the great need of Baptist Tracts in Germany, \$60 was forwarded to Mr. ONCKEN, at Hamburg, for the purpose of publishing the "Scripture Manual on Baptism" in the German language. The letter of Mr. ONCKEN, who was not yet baptized, contains the following remarkable language.

"The publications of your Society on Baptism are admirable. They were quite new to me, and have tended not a little to establish me in my purpose to comply with this part of my Saviour's command as soon as possible.* I am very anxious that some of these excellent treatises should

* Bro. Oncken was 600 miles distant from any Baptist church; and he, with some twenty or thirty others, who had embraced Baptist sentiments in Hamburg, was waiting for the arrival of an administrator.

be translated into German, and be extensively circulated; for the views of Baptism prevalent in this country, are so injurious to the right understanding of the plan of salvation as laid down in the word of God, and to the spread of the Gospel, that it is of the highest importance that they should be counteracted; and I think your Tracts are admirably adapted for it. But alas! we have not the means to defray the expenses of printing them. It would therefore afford me unspeakable pleasure if your Society could extend its labors to infidel Germany."

Thus began, in 1832, by the influence of some of our humblest Tracts, under the mighty hand of God, the great work of Baptist Evangelization in Germany, from which such glorious results are now seen; which has penetrated into Switzerland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, and even Austria; which has already planted Baptist churches in all the principal cities and capitals of Protestant Europe, revolutionized the opinions of senates and kings on the subject of religious liberty, and stirred up a godly jealousy of active emulation among the best men of the State Churches, as is apparent in the organization of the German "Church Diet," and the "Inner Mission."

25. The West and South West. The Aborigines.

In October, 100,000 pages of Tracts were sent to Rev. J. M. Peck, of Illinois, for gratuitous distribution at the West. The following is an extract of a letter from him: "I have just returned from a protracted meeting with a class of people, who never had such means as Tracts before to any extent. I made proclamation from the stand at the intermission, to give every person a Tract. About 300 were present, and the people pressed around with great earnestness. I had to give away in many instances, two

and three to an individual who would beg them for an absent friend. During the intervals of worship the people were busily employed in reading them; thus a double advantage was gained. About twelve persons were converted at the meeting and many more were anxious."

In the South West also the demand was urgent. A worthy minister of Alabama wrote thus: "This country is filled with Baptist churches, but ministers of the Gospel are scarce. The churches are in an inactive state at present, and much is needed to be done to break the lethargy which has long pervaded the whole Baptist community, and awake us to a full sense of duty. Other denominations have become active in benevolent objects, and now the Baptists are of the opinion generally, that it is exclusively their work, and consequently sectarian. How can a benevolent spirit be produced with the most success, and this infatuation be exposed? My own opinion is that it must be done through the instrumentality of Tracts—Baptist Tracts—and Baptist Missionary labor.

"But our denomination do not in this country generally know that the Baptists issue Tracts. We have no Depository in North Alabama. This is a wealthy country. There is much wealth among the Baptists; but public opinion must be much changed before it will be turned into its proper channel. If the resolution of the Tract Society, passed a year or two since, (for every church to have 600 pages,) could be realized by the churches here, it is probable that they might be attended with much good. We have upwards of 20 churches in this, the Flint River Association."

The Society responded to this call by an appropriation of 600 pages to each of these 20 churches, and to 63 others in Mississippi and Alabama. All the good anticipated has since followed.

Nor were our aborigines overlooked. A small donation

of our Tracts was sent in the summer to Mr. John Davis, a Creek Indian, a Baptist preacher among his countrymen, west of the Mississippi. In reply, he writes as follows : "Three weeks ago I received the Tracts which you had the kindness to send me. I thank you for your kindness. Your publications I should be very thankful to receive, for I live in a country which affords no means of information. I would also ask you for some Sabbath School books, for Bro. Lewis and myself are about to open a Sabbath School, with very few spelling books ; and I am certain we shall have more children and grown people than books. However, we have been advised by Bro. McCoy, *to cut the leaves out of the spelling books and give to the people, if we should have more people than books, and to teach on with those books until we can get a supply from some quarter.*"

26. Tract Magazine, etc.

The Tract Magazine, important as it was to the interests of the Society, having hitherto failed to pay its expenses, owing to its low price and the remissness of subscribers in making advance payments, it was resolved by the Board to reduce the size on the 1st of January, from a sheet to half a sheet monthly, and continue it as before.

The amount of books sold on commission at the Central Depository in South Fourth Street, was \$932.70, with a profit to the Society of \$166.

The total receipts of the year were \$5213.27 : the expenditures \$3468.17 : leaving a balance of \$1745.10, to be applied to the reduction of the Society's debt.

27. Two Plans of Depositories. Results.

Three new Depositories were established at Detroit, Michigan; Westport, N. Y.; and Whitingham, Vt.—making the whole number thirty-nine; of which all but seven were sustained by the parent Institution. The expense of sustaining these Depositories was found already very burdensome, and greatly impeding the Society's operations. To effect a salutary change in this respect, the Board this year earnestly recommended to the friends of the cause in those places where Depositories were established, to raise funds, purchase the Depositories, and take the entire management of them into their own hands. In support of this recommendation it was urged that "otherwise the General Society will be compelled to remove them from their present locations. Those Depositories which are owned by Branch Societies are prosperous, while most of the others have made no remittances during the past year. The stock of Tracts in these several Depositories of the General Society amount to at least \$4,000. The Society not only loses the interest of this sum, which is \$240; but it sustains a loss on the depreciation of the property, and from other causes. These evils must be remedied."

The number of new Auxiliaries formed was thirty-five. The names of eight Life Directors, and thirty-eight Life Members were added; making the whole number of the former 69, and of the latter 312. The only traveling agent employed, was Rev. Peter Simouson, for twelve weeks, who formed fifteen Auxiliaries, and collected \$300 in cash, besides more than \$100 in pledges.

28. Obligations to the Society. Rev. D. Cameron.

The Annual Report closes in the following words :

"We cannot forbear to inquire, What are our obligations as individual Christians and as a denomination, to a Society which has put within our reach so many valuable publications, at a price so low that the poorest members of our churches may afford to possess them ? Can there be a Sabbath School where they are not introduced, or a congregation without a pastor, which is not supplied with those precious substitutes for the ministry of the word ? Can there be a pastor who does not make them the companions of his visits among his people ? or a domestic missionary who does not give wings to these silent messengers of salvation as he passes from place to place ? Among the 400,000 Baptists in our country, is there one who does not covet the privilege of aiding the Society, by subscription, or purchase, or donation ? Never was there a greater call upon the Society for vigorous effort than the present. No where could an equal sum be appropriated with a higher certainty of doing good, thirty, sixty, and an hundred fold. Nearly three millions of our country's population look up to us for instruction. All this responsibility rests upon us as Baptists. Our Tract Society is a mighty agent for enlightening, purifying, elevating, and blessing this immense mass of population. By receiving a regular increase of funds, it will soon be speedily relieved from embarrassment, and be enabled to go forward in its operations with renewed vigor ; it will penetrate the western wilderness ; and every where in its broad and noiseless track *the word of the Lord shall have free course and be glorified.*"

New instances of the usefulness of the Society's Tracts were furnished this year by Rev. Wm. Laws, Brn. Hodges, S. Siegfried, A. Bingham, L. Fletcher, C. Sawyer,

and others. Among their fruits was the conversion to Baptist sentiments of Rev. D. CAMERON, of the Episcopal Church, a useful Missionary among the Indians at Sault de St. Marie, who received baptism, with three of his converts at the same time, from the hands of Bro. Bingham.

29. Tenth Annual Meeting.

The *Tenth Anniversary* of the Society was held with the Fifth Baptist Church, in Sansom Street, Philadelphia, Jan. 8, 1834, Rev. Wm. T. Brantly, the President, in the chair. The Annual Report of the Board, and the Report of the Treasurer were read and accepted for publication, being supported by interesting addresses from brethren R. W. Cushman and N. Colver of New York. The officers of the last year were re-elected. The only changes in the Board were the choice of Levi Tucker and John B. Trevor, in place of J. Maylin and D. Jones.

The Annual Report of the Board of Managers opens with an elaborate vindication of the principles on which the Society had been established and conducted, against those on the one hand who objected to its denominational character, and those on the other who would restrict its issues to denominational works alone.

"Though our Society has been for several years in successful operation, and during those years has received testimonials of decided approbation from nearly all quarters, yet there are still those of our brethren in several places, who cannot so appreciate the reasons for a *Baptist Tract Society*, as to be induced to unite heartily with us. For the sake of such, and also for the fuller confirmation of those who are already agreed on the merits of the subject, we consider it incumbent upon us to place before you, in the commencement of this Report, some considerations

evincive of the need of such a Society to the building up and enlargement of our portion of the Lord's Zion.

"First. It has already secured the general favor and patronage of the denomination. It is now from eight to ten years since its claims have been presented to the notice of our brethren. During that interval its character, designs and objects have been fully developed by its history; and, consequently, those who have conferred upon it their sanction have had the full benefit of facts in making up their mind. They have not been carried along on the current of popular opinion; nor have they been impelled by a blind partiality to sectional interests; nor have they been urged on by the authority of names, in arriving at the conclusion upon which they rest; but they are convinced by their own experience and observation; and therefore their approving manifestations are of no small account. They are, too, the large majority of the most pious and enlightened of our denomination—those who take an active part in all the good plans of Christian benevolence, and who are thoroughly awake to all the calls of duty. Is the suffrage of such a majority worth nothing in settling the question respecting the expediency and necessity of the Baptist General Tract Society?"

Testimony is quoted from the Christian Watchman of Boston, from the Baptist Conventions of New York and Vermont, from the General Association of Virginia, and also from a great "Meeting of Western Baptists" recently held at Cincinnati, Ohio.

These are cited only as specimens of the whole. "Similar resolutions and recommendations have been adopted by all those State Conventions whose proceedings have come under our knowledge, whilst individual Associations almost with one voice have uttered approving expressions.

"We feel authorized, then, to believe that the Baptist General Tract Society has the fixed and deliberate appro-

bation of the major part of the denomination ; and that the course which it has heretofore pursued in publishing Tracts, partly on subjects peculiar to ourselves, as a separate body of Christians ; and partly on general subjects, is fully and cordially sustained.

" 2. The importance of the Society will be yet more evident when we compute the probable value of its influence in promoting uniformity of opinion and sentiment throughout the whole body of our people. In our view, the existence of our Society is requisite, even though it should send forth none but Tracts on general subjects. For the views and sentiments under the sanction of the Society have this advantage from that sanction—they are more readily and generally received. A Tract may be respected and read on account of its own claims and merits ; but it will be more read and respected when those claims and merits are vouched for by those whose judgment and opinion are weighty and considerable ; and who therefore endorse the instrument for the purpose of augmenting its credit. And by how much the more the circulation of common and general truth is aided by the authority under which it is made known, by so much the more is real good accomplished. All that is gained in this way is so much net profit, over and above the results of ordinary operations. A book, the merits of which may have been previously known, when conveyed to us by the hand of one we love, and stamped with the imprint of his signature making it ours, acquires from this very circumstance in our estimation a sort of consecrated character. Is it too much to believe that there is pervading the great mass of our people a common feeling of brotherhood which secures for *Baptist Tracts* a reception not to be accorded to those under other authority ? And should it appear that our *selection* and adoption of Tracts may increase the facilities for its extension, we may reasonably conclude that in the same de-

gree harmony of feeling and uniformity of sentiment will be extended and fostered among our readers. We accordingly feel justified in reiterating the idea already advanced of the value of our Society's influence in rendering us a more united people.

"It may be further observed that we should find but a small supply of doctrinal Tracts if we were to look for them out of our own series of publications. The American Society being composed of individuals of so many varying creeds and opinions, does not adventure the publication of many things having a doctrinal complexion. Every matter of this sort, to pass their inspection, must be so pared down, reduced and shaped, as to suit a common standard.—Our Society is not placed under such limitations and restrictions in regard to doctrines. We find it not incompatible with our constitution to issue discourses and Tracts which savor well of the doctrines of grace, and have a suitable seasoning of that sort of wholesome truth which should be infused into every religious discussion.

"3. And, surely, if reasons can be found to justify our existence as a separate Society, even though we should publish Tracts on general subjects and on no others, much more will our claims to such an existence be defended from all exceptions, if respect be had to those publications which go to explain and vindicate our views as a denomination.

"What we have said in the foregoing paragraphs may be thought by some unnecessary, if not unseasonable. But we judge otherwise; and take this occasion to say, that if there be *sufficient reason* for the Baptist General Tract Society—then it should have more ample, more uniform, and more general support. If it should exist at all, it should exist with a wider range of influence, with a more harmonious and efficient effort, and with more decided proofs of utility."

Ten new Tracts, containing together 250 pages, had

been added to the regular series ; making the whole number of Tracts 135. In addition, three occasional Tracts were published.

The receipts for the year, were \$6,126.97 ; of which \$1,850 were from donations. The debt of the Society had been extinguished by the payment of \$1,550.50 ; leaving \$4,576.47, for defraying the current expenses of the year. The number of Tracts printed was 235,000, making in the whole 3,676,258 pages. For gratuitous distribution there were sent to the Valley of the Mississippi, 150,000 pages ; to Virginia, 75,000 ; to Georgia, 5000 ; Maryland, 1500 ; New Hampshire, 6000 ; Canada, 6000 ; London, 3000 ; Pennsylvania, 35,000 ; Africa, 10,000 ; Burmah, 5000 ; Germany, 5000. Of the German Tracts 5000 pages were distributed in New York, Pennsylvania, and North Carolina. The whole number of pages thus gratuitously distributed, was 275,000 pages.—The sales at the Depository amounted to \$1500.

Most of the time of the General Agent had been spent in Virginia, in visiting and arousing the churches in favor of the Tract cause. "Since I left home," he says, "I have traveled 3000 miles; visited 84 churches; corresponded with 164 others; preached 96 times; delivered over 100 public addresses; formed about 100 Auxiliary Tract Societies; collected \$1150; obtained pledges for \$490; established three Depositories; and distributed upwards of 500,000 pages of Tracts." Six other Agents were also under appointment—S. F. Phœnix, J. A. Phœnix, N. Graham, Rev. J. M. Timmons, Rev. J. Thomas, and Rev. S. S. Burdett.

New evidence of the usefulness of the Society's Tracts was received from Burmah, from Germany, and from various sections of the United States.

Six new Depositories were established during the year : at Troy, N. Y.; at Fredericksburg, Va.; Lancaster C.

H., Va.; at Lewisburg, Va.; Cleveland, Ohio; and at Sumpterville, S. C.; making the whole number forty-three.

30. Eleventh Annual Meeting, 1835.

The *Eleventh Anniversary* of the Society was held with the First Baptist Church, Philadelphia, Jan. 7, 1835; Rev. Wm. T. Brantly, President, in the chair. The Annual Reports of the Board and of the Treasurer were read and accepted. In the choice of the new Board, five brethren—Ashton, Hansell, Fletcher, Webster and Vandyke retired, and their places were filled by the election of brethren Wm. E. Garrett, T. B. Sherburne, George Swope, Jacob Reed, and Israel E. James.

The Annual Report mentions the death of brethren J. Maylin, N. R. Cobb, F. P. Browning, and G. C. Shivers, among the warm friends of the Society. Seven new Tracts, making 140 pages, were added, six of them in the regular series. Of the Tract Magazine, 22,200 copies were circulated, embracing 352,800 pages, at a cost of \$319.52; and an arrearage due from subscribers of \$555; leaving the Magazine in debt, \$5503. Monthly Tracts, to the number of 2500 copies, and embracing 60,000 pages, were sent to subscribers. Tracts printed, 248,312, making 5,324,636, nearly double the number of the preceding year. The number of pages issued from the Depository, 4,378,382. The gratuitous issues were 533,000 pages; 6000 of which were sent to Liberia, and the rest to different points of the United States. The number of new Auxiliaries formed, was 159. Three Branch Societies were organized; one at Louisville, Ky.; one at Cincinnati, O.; and one at Concord, N. H. Fourteen new Depositories were established,—five of them only on the funds of the Parent Society.

Receipts of the Society, \$6,035.74; including \$347.77,

for a Tract House; an increase over the preceding year of \$256.54. The expenditures were \$5,996.51. Six traveling agents had been employed for limited periods, being equal to 23 months' labor—brethren Phœnix, Pouncey, Hatch, Glover, Lockwood and Briggs. The General Agent, himself, bro. I. M. Allen, had traveled over 10,000 miles in the promotion of the Society's interests with great success.

31. Tract House Fund.

In regard to the Tract House, the Report says, "Deeming it necessary to make further arrangements for the permanent prosperity of the Society, and feeling the need of a house for a Depository of its publications, in which its property may be safely preserved, and its business carried on with more regularity, economy and system, particularly in the printing and book-binding departments, the Board decided to open a subscription for a Fund for that purpose, and that the female friends of the Baptist General Tract Society in the United States be first applied to for this object." The \$347.77 mentioned above were the first fruits of an appeal to their liberality, made by a Circular Address this year.

32. The Baptist Manual.

A bound volume of select Tracts having been made up, under the name of "The Baptist Manual," it was determined that a copy of it should be placed in every family that would receive it in the Valley of the Mississippi. A fund was opened for this purpose, that every where in that vast field there might be found "a faithful representative of the sentiments of the denomination."

33. New Efforts Abroad. Burmah.

The need of increasing exertion in behalf of the Tract cause, both at home and abroad, is strongly urged in the Annual Report. The following memorable language of Mrs. Wade, on the want of more Burmese Tracts for distribution, is quoted in proof. In addressing the ladies of Philadelphia, she said, "O, my dear sisters, in all I have suffered in leaving my friends and my own loved country; in all the dangers and trials I have experienced among the barbarous, degraded heathen; nothing has wrung my heart with such bitter anguish, as to be obliged to deny even a single leaf containing the gospel tidings, to a perishing fellow creature, who had heard that there is a way of salvation, and had come to inquire for it. And can you not willingly lay aside the superfluities and elegancies of life, that you may be enabled to give bountifully for the purpose of sending the bread of life to those famishing souls. How shall we meet them at the bar of God, if we have not used every effort in our power to give them His word?"

It is stated as a fact in the Burmese Mission that natives have been found by the missionaries, in their tours through the country, giving good evidence of piety, who had never heard a living teacher, but had become acquainted with the Saviour by means of a Tract.

34. Germany. First Baptist Church at Hamburg.

The attention of the Board had been directed in the providence of God to France and Germany. In the latter country the demand for Tracts had become urgent, and the facilities for their circulation multiplied by the baptism of Mr. Oncken and six others, at Hamburg, in April last, (1834,)

and their constitution into a Baptist Church which called him to be its pastor. In a letter from him of September 30th, he says, "The English language is now much studied, so that I can always make good use of books and Tracts in that language. As the subject of baptism has been, since the recent occurrence at Hamburg, more a point of investigation, and as that holy ordinance is entirely neglected, and instead of it, a mere human invention has taken its place, I would urge the Directors of the B. G. Tract Society, very warmly, to take into early consideration the importance of having another Tract on that subject translated into German and published as early as possible. The favorable opportunities which now present themselves, ought not to be allowed to pass unimproved; —our lives are short and uncertain, and the instruments God has been pleased to raise up in defence of the truth, may soon be called hence; let us therefore work while it is called to day. The seed we sow cannot be lost; and I verily believe our little messengers and witnesses for Christ and his blessed ordinances, will be instrumental in effecting a great change in this country. I pray that the great Head of the Church may direct my beloved brethren in America, and my unworthy self, to adopt such measures as He will own and bless in the extension of pure and undefiled religion."

This letter of Mr. Oncken led to the translation of Pen-gilly's Scripture Guide, and the Memoir of Mrs. Judson, and their publication in German, at the expense of Christians in this country, by the invitation of this Society. The results have justified the outlay. Twenty-two years have now passed since the first baptism in Hamburg, by Prof. Sears, referred to above. The result is before us. According to the faith of Bro. Oncken, it has been unto him. "Our little messengers" have been "instrumental in effecting a great change" in Germany—a change glorious to

God and to Truth—a change fraught with the salvation of thousands already, and of tens of thousands yet unborn.

The Report of the Board closes with fresh instances of usefulness in this country, as encouragement to increased exertion, by the friends of the Society.

35. Twelfth Annual Meeting, 1836.

The *Twelfth Annual Meeting* was held on Wednesday evening, Jan. 6, 1836, in the Spruce Street Baptist Meeting House, Philadelphia. The President, Rev. W. T. Brantly, in the chair. The Annual Report of the Board was read by Mr. ALLEN, the General Agent. Addresses were delivered by President Babcock, of Waterville, Me.; Prof. Armstrong, of Wake Forest Institution, N. C.; and Rev. S. P. Hill, of Baltimore, in connection with resolutions offered.

On motion of Israel E. James, Esq., the third article of the Constitution was altered, so as to extend the number of Managers from *fifteen* to *twenty-one*. Rev. A. D. Gillette was chosen in place of Rev. Levi Tucker, and Rev. J. J. Woolsey in place of George Swope. The additional six members were A. D. Gillette, Joseph Taylor, John C. Davis, James M. Linnard, and Dr. Wilson Jewell.

The Report states that "the number of Tracts having become so considerable, it is deemed expedient to aim at enlarging their circulation rather than add to the Society's stock." Only six new ones were therefore added, increasing the series to 148. Three thousand copies of the *Baptist Manual* had been printed, in accordance with the Society's resolution last year to put a bound volume of its publications in every accessible family in the States of Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Mississippi, and the

work of distribution auspiciously begun. Twenty thousand copies of the Tract Magazine were published, at an expense of \$280; the receipts falling short of \$52.81, leaving the arrearages due \$700. Tracts printed during the year 268,730, making 7,080,000 pages. Issued from the Depository, 5,992,206 pages; leaving on hand, 2,837,036. Free grants to the value of \$1,196.21 had been distributed through the States, besides many in South America, Africa, and other places.

A letter from Dr. Judson, at Maulmain, says, "American Tracts are in such demand here, that I should distribute the whole package in a few days if I gave them freely." Besides this grant of their own Tracts, the Board paid over \$418, received for printing others in the Burman language.

The sum of \$175.75 had been received for Tracts in Germany, in answer to Bro. Oncken's appeal; \$500 was deemed not too much for the object. In a recent letter he says, "Much I could well employ, but the least assistance will be duly appreciated. My own resources are dried up, having published two editions of a Tract of 9000 copies—5000 copies of the Epistle to the Romans, with Luther's Preface—3000 copies of a work of 48 pages against the Church Establishments, and 2000 copies of the 'Covenant of Grace.' I shall be happy to receive what may be in your hands for German Tracts as early as possible. My work is still going on well—the Lord is still gracious to us. Four converts were added to our little community during the summer, and there are prospects of future usefulness.* I delight in my work, and find the service of my

* In another letter of this period, Mr. Oncken makes the following remark: "The Scriptural observance of baptism cuts deeper into the corrupt state of the unscriptural church on the Continent, than all the truth which can be brought to bear against it, put together; and hence it is when the child of God dares follow his Lord in this holy ordinance,

God infinitely more pleasant than the service of the god of this world."

36. The Valley Fund, &c.

On the subscription proposed by the Board, called the Valley Fund, of \$1000 for five years, for circulating Tracts in the great "West," there had been paid in \$662.50; but the numbers of subscribers was already 252—equivalent to \$1260, if all paid. Number of new Auxiliaries, 158. The Young Ladies' Society of Patterson, N. J., had distinguished themselves by obtaining 350 subscribers, and distributing in and around the town no less than 60,000 pages of Tracts. The Philadelphia Female Union Tract Society, formed in March, had paid over \$219.75, for the purposes of the Society—one half to be appropriated to the Mississippi Valley. The students of the Haddington and Burlington Institutions had formed Auxiliary Societies; and the latter had adopted the plan of monthly distribution. Auxiliaries in Worcester and Boston, Mass., had been active in co-operation; but many others had become remiss. Of the fifty-three Depositories, twenty-eight were owned by the Parent Society, besides the General Depository in Philadelphia; eight by Branch Societies; seven by Auxiliaries; 4 by Associations; 2 by Theological Institutions; and 4 by individuals. For want of prompt payments in many places the Board were crippled and the Society embarrassed in its operations. Rev. Otis Briggs, Stephen Jones, Samuel F. Phoenix, Samuel Glover, James Seymour, James R. Haggard, and Edmund Goodnough,

that he cuts asunder the main spring of that corrupt system, which for centuries has deluded multitudes, and destroyed them forever, under the specious name of Christianity.—My baptism is such a transgression against the prevailing practice of the world, and many even of God's children, that both make me feel their coldness and indignation."

were employed as Agents for a time in different districts—equal to the steady service of one man for over two years, whose collections in cash and pledges amounted to \$2,585.05. Voluntary agencies, also, had been performed by Rev. J. M. Peck, E. Loomis, L. Worly, D. F. Newton, W. R. Hinton, J. M. Timmons, S. S. Burdett, Holcombe, Heard, Mallary, Crosby, J. S. Eaton, and others, particularly C. P. Jacobs, of Patterson, N. J. Total receipts for the year \$8000.34, being an increase upon any preceding year of nearly \$2000—besides \$334.55 for the contemplated Tract House.

"The history of the year satisfies the Board that their labors have not been in vain in the Lord."

37. Thirteenth Annual Meeting, 1837.

The *Thirteenth Annual Meeting* was held on Wednesday evening, Jan. 4, 1837, at the Baptist Meeting House, Sansom Street, Philadelphia: the President, Rev. Wm. T. Brantly, in the chair. The Report of the Board was read, followed by an abstract of the Treasurer's Report, with resolutions and addresses from Wm. T. Brantly, Jr., Rev. J. Dowling, of New York, and others. The resolution moved and sustained by Mr. Dowling was in these terms: "*Resolved*, that while we regard the Foreign and Home Missionary Societies of our denomination as eminently entitled to the confidence and the co-operation of the churches, we consider the Tract Society as equally deserving the support of the denomination, because it is a powerful auxiliary of, and an efficient co-worker with both the former." The collection taken up at the close amounted to almost \$300. The new Board stood thus: Wm. T. Brantly, *President*; Joseph H. Kennard, *Vice President*; I. M. Allen, *General Agent*; William W. Keen, *Trea-*

surer; Wm. Ford, *Secretary*; R. W. Cushman, Wm. H. Richards, John Davis, John Mulford, Jr., Joseph Reynolds, R. Babcock, Jr., Isaac Reed, D. H. Hinman, A. D. Gillette, John B. Trevor, Wm. E. Garret, Thos. P. Sherborne, J. J. Woolsey, Jacob Reed, S. Huggins, John Ellis, Joseph Sheppard, John C. Davis, Wm. S. Hansell, Wm. Vandyke, and John Jones, *Directors*.

38. The Tract Enterprise.

The Report of the Board, drawn up and read by Dr. Brantly, opens with some eloquent observations on the nature and value of the Tract Enterprise, from which we cull the following memorable words. "As it is easy when any given space is filled with large materials, to introduce many smaller ones without increasing the visible bulk, so the introduction of such means of usefulness as your Society employs, will strengthen and brace the more important systems of well-doing, without rendering them unwieldy or complex. They help to fill up the interstices in more stated and weighty ministrations, and thus improve that wise and prudential economy by which members of the Lord's household occupy their talents until he shall come to reckon with them.

"To what extent the spiritual welfare of our denomination has been promoted by the circulation of Tracts, within the last ten years, it is not possible to say. But are we saying too much, when we proclaim with confidence, that a large number of the most interesting conversions in the most prosperous churches, have been effected by this humble means. Who can tell how many wanderers from the ways of God, have been thereby reclaimed, and made active in establishing the faith which they once labored to subvert? Who can estimate the amount of consolation

which has been thereby placed within the reach of the afflicted and the destitute ? How many wavering and dejected souls have been confirmed and cheered by the seasonable instructions and admonitions thereby communicated ? How many dying saints have breathed out their last audible whispers in sentiments and language suggested by your Tracts ?

" Is it too much to believe that your winged heralds, flying abroad in every direction, have conducted much toward unity of feeling and sentiment among the brethren ? That they have given an impulse to a benevolent effort ? That they have aided in the suppression of error, and in the advancement of truth ? And that they have contributed no mean quota towards the general improvement of the denomination in knowledge and spirituality ?

" We are not without apprehension that the religious and moral influence of the department of duty now before us, is not rightly and adequately rated. We would respectfully ask those brethren who should feel themselves charged with the work of circulation and distribution, whether they can clear their consciences in thus indirectly stifling the voice of truth, and frustrating the objects of pious benevolence. The Tract has no power of local motion—of self-diffusion. It needs the care, and the tongues, and the hands of those who love the cause for its own sake, to render it effective and useful. May we solicit in its behalf such aids ; and may we kindly, but frankly, expostulate with those whose supineness is retarding and nullifying one of the most important and useful methods of Christian charity ?

" The publications of the Society have now attained such numbers and varieties as to answer almost every demand. Doctrinal subjects, discussions on experimental religion, practical treatises, biographical sketches, missionary topics, and concise arguments in vindication of our

distinguishing views as one body of Christians, with many subordinate articles, are now to be found in the series. To give them then a tongue, will surely be the part of wisdom. Let them speak, not only in whispers, but in loud and energetic tones. Let them lift up their voice like a trumpet.

"There is one class of your Tracts to which we would ask special attention. We mean those in which are stated our reasons for declining communion at the Lord's table with our Pedobaptist brethren. There is no point at which, as a denomination, we are more constantly and boldly pressed. Our baptismal views are impregnable; but on the subject of communion unmixed, it seems to be thought there is a weak side, through which an irruption may be made, and a successful attack carried on against our strong point of baptism. Shall we therefore retire from the defence of that part, which, though as strong as the other, yet seems to be more speciously assailable. Many of the strongest men amongst our English brethren have not only withdrawn from the defence, but have joined the assailants, and in our view have thus aided to open a passage to spoil and ravage. Of the final results of their course, we pretend not to express any hasty predictions, nor to utter any bitter solicitudes. The Lord knoweth them that are his, and will order his providences towards them according to his own faithfulness and wisdom. To us the course of duty is manifest. Break down our strict communion in this country, and you break down our churches. Communion is a church act, and the church is composed of baptized believers. We deny not that the Lord may have churches of unbaptized believers. He has not so taught us.

"Your Managers have endeavored to direct their labors by the following maxims:—A prudent economy of their means—exactness in the calculation of small items—

promptness in answering the calls of distant friends and correspondents—and an anxious care to accomplish all the good of which the resources at their command were capable. If in any case there has been a departure from these principles, it was an error of judgment and not of will.—The necessary machinery of the Institution must consume a proportionate part of the money contributed for its support. And since the Tract enterprise very much resembles the business of book-making, in which, after the types are set and the press in operation, copies may be multiplied with much less than the original cost, we would suggest that the present is a favorable crisis for increased donations and contributions. By the same mechanical arrangements which enable us to do the present business of the Depository, we might accomplish, without any material increase of expense in that department, twice the amount of actual good."

During the year eight new Tracts were published, making, with the covers, 128 pages. Total number of stereotyped pages belonging to the Society, 2830; not stereotyped, 1207; in all 4037 pages. Six volumes of 300 pages each, and twelve half-volumes of Tracts had been bound: the seventh volume was nearly finished. A Monthly Paper had taken the place of the Tract Magazine, of which 1800 copies were issued monthly at a cost of \$313.60, and return of \$159.21. Of the Triennial Register for 1836, prepared by Mr. Allen, 2500 copies were printed, at a cost of \$1382.26; a return of \$825, leaving the Register in debt \$557.26. New stereotype plates of Pengilly's Scripture Guide, from the ninth English edition, were in preparation.

The number of Tracts printed, 279,472, embracing 5,169,800 pages; number issued from the Depository, 4,808,200; leaving more than 3,000,000 pages on hand. The free grants were distributed as follows:—Mississippi Valley, 665,416 pages; Burmah, 32,340; Germany, 37,140;

Africa, 18,750 ; Nova Scotia, 48,046 ; Jamaica, 26,634 ; American Indians, 9000 ; Georgia, 72,230 ; South Carolina, 1494 ; North Carolina, 117,516 ; Virginia, 22,020 ; Delaware, 17,776 ; Pennsylvania, 65,454 ; New Jersey, 22,860 ; New York, 10,424 ; other places, 108,960 : the total value of these gratuities was \$858.27. Application had also been made for a free grant to Canada. The German Fund had risen to \$783.44, including the receipts of the preceding year ; the Burman Fund to \$184.35. Two editions of the Baptist Manual had been issued ; it had met everywhere a welcome of warm approval.

On the Valley Fund, \$1120 had been received ; making in all \$1782.50. This success led the Board to enlarge the plan to meet more adequately the magnitude of the field ; and without changing the principle, but only seeking to double the number of subscribers engaging to pay \$5 cash for five years ; it was henceforth called the Ten Thousand Dollar Plan. In smaller sums, \$285.89 had been received for the same noble enterprise.

The total receipts for the year ending Jan. 3, 1837, were \$9215, an increase of \$1215.39 beyond any preceding year. The total amount of donations was \$3990.78. "It will be perceived," says Dr. Brantly, "that the *donations* to the objects of the Society are of no great amount. The legacy of \$500 from the late brother Abner Davis, of Georgia, was indeed a most seasonable and valuable contribution to our resources—and another sum of the same magnitude, expected soon to be paid from the estate of our late worthy brother Wm. E. Ashton, affords us some encouragement for the time to come. Much room for similar acts of munificence still remain. Could the thousands and tens of thousands of our church members, both male and female, throughout the whole country, find a more useful way of disposing of some of their superfluous treasure, than by forwarding it without solicitation to our General Agent ?

Your five dollars, and ten dollars, and twenty dollars, and fifties, and hundreds, as the Lord has prospered you, might be turned to most important account in this way. It is certain that the distributors of Tracts themselves are not able to calculate their moral momentum on the work of pious beneficence. One thing we may assuredly know :—*they are not lost.* Their echoes are heard in the experience of redeemed sinners ; their holy savor is perceived in the improved lives of individual Christians ; their harmony is heard in all the concerts of prayer in which they that love Jerusalem seek her prosperity."

39. Fourteenth Annual Meeting, 1838.

The *Fourteenth Anniversary* of the Society was held in the Oliver Street Baptist Church, New York, April 24, 1838. Rev. Dr. Chapin, President of Columbian College, Washington, was called to the chair. The Annual Report of the Board was read by the General Agent, Rev. I. M. Allen, and was listened to by a large assembly with deep and gratified attention. Its acceptance was moved, and ably sustained, by Rev. Wm. B. Johnson, D.D., of South Carolina, and Rev. Alfred Bennett of New York.

Mr. Bennett, in alluding to the financial pressure of the times, said, with his usual good sense and warmth of heart, "The friends of benevolent objects must feel that *economy* should begin in their own homes, not at the house of God. In the language of a good sister with whom he met, they must 'resolve to wear their old cloaks another year, and give the cost of a new one to the Lord's treasury.'"

This last hint was not lost. In the collection which followed, amounting to \$263, was a pledge in these words :—"_____ has worn the old cloak another winter, and doubles his subscription, \$10."

The Annual Report of the Board opens with a reference to the change of the time of the anniversary from January to April, in order to bring it into a more favorable season of the year, and connect it with the anniversaries of other kindred institutions of benevolence in the denomination. In consequence of this change, the Report embraces a period of fifteen months, a period of great difficulty and commercial distress, through which they had been carried by the smiles of Providence, prudent management, and the timely liberality of friends of the cause.

Only three new publications were added to the Tract series—the new and enlarged edition of Pengilly's Scripture Guide, and two premium Tracts on the Injurious Influences of Theatrical Amusements, by Rev. S. P. Hill and Rev. Dr. Plumer. One of the two premium Tracts of the preceding year, on *The Peace-Speaking Blood of Christ*, had been translated, by the Missionary who had offered the premium, into the Chinese language for circulation in that vast empire.

40. A Proposition Urged.

A proposition was made, and strongly supported in the New York Baptist Register, to put a copy of Pengilly in every accessible family in the United States. The following reasons were urged : 1. The duty devolving upon us to speak the whole truth. 2. The weighty responsibilities we are under as a denomination with reference to the Bible. 3. The divine promise concerning the triumph of truth. 4. The ease with which it might be accomplished. "I would be very willing," says the writer, "to undertake for the supply of this town. I am sure the Baptists in it would be willing to supply the funds." The Editor, Mr. Beebe, remarks : "Our brethren will answer with us that

the above proposition is by no means visionary, but with proper energy, both practicable and desirable to be carried into execution. Baptism has its place, and an important place; and it cannot be passed by indifferently, without casting contempt on the great Lawgiver." Correspondents in Indiana and South Carolina, speaking for the South and West, echoed the same opinion. One of them adds, "I ordered a hundred, to supply all my Methodist friends with one."

Fifteen hundred copies of the *Baptist Manual* were printed, and most of them sold or distributed during the year. A purchaser in Virginia observed afterwards, "that he would not take \$5 for it, if he could not get another in its place." President Manly, of Alabama, wrote, "The Baptist Manual, as a book of reference, *and for the purpose of lending to inquirers*, should be possessed by every member of our churches." The Editor of the Cross and Journal, Ohio, advises: "Let each church undertake to supply each of its members with a copy of the Manual."

The number of Tracts printed for the year, was 121,616, making 2,995,620 pages. Pages issued from the Depository, 3,584,434; leaving 2,609,628 pages on hand. These Tracts "are deserving of far more attention from the denomination than they seem to have received. In intrinsic value they are equal to the first productions of any age, as may easily be demonstrated; *the best writers of nearly every age have written them*. And in the denomination they are invaluable, because they publish what no other Tract Society will publish for us, valuable documents on our denominational peculiarities." In their wide spread circulation, accompanied, as they are, by the prayers of thousands, these messengers of mercy exert a beneficial influence upon the churches, silent and refreshing as the dew upon the tender grass. New instances of their efficacy, under God, in the conversion of sinners, are presented in

the Report. The free grants for the year amounted to \$987.82.

41. Baptist Record. Triennial Register.

The Baptist Record had been changed from a *monthly* to a *semi-monthly* paper, with cheering testimonies of its acceptance and success. Without diminishing the monthly amount of matter directly relating to the Tract cause, it is proposed to make it the vehicle of the most important information respecting the Baptist churches throughout the world; for which purpose it has many central facilities.

The Triennial Register, by means of the payments of the past year, had been redeemed from debt; but without encouragement to undertake another.

42. Work at Home and Abroad.

The amount credited to the Valley Fund, on the Ten Thousand Dollar Plan, from the commencement in April, 1835, now amounted to \$2,788.25; the amount distributed, including expenses, to \$1,611.06. A brother in Arkansas, writes: "I cannot find language to express the thankfulness which I feel for so valuable a treasure, and the salutary effects which they have wrought among the Baptists here.—Since the arrival of the box of Tracts I have been riding, preaching, and distributing them. I have visited the churches and the respective neighborhoods in the Association. Uniformity is effected among the Baptists of this Association; the Missionary cause is warmly espoused, and all move on harmoniously. I have distributed all, and could have distributed many more. I am highly pleased with the information you gave me in your last, of sending on another box of Tracts. They will

be cordially received, and all dispatch made in distributing them." Similar acknowledgments and testimony were received from Tennessee, Illinois, Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky. Antinomian and anti-mission errors, of which there had been a prolific crop, were eradicated, and truth and righteousness resumed their reign where all had been overspread with darkness and death.

The work in Germany under Bro. Oncken, is advancing with a most delightful increase. In August he writes : "Our Tract operations are in a state of great activity, and our fountain must soon cease to flow, if we do not receive more extensive assistance. We have distributed, since the formation of our Society, in September, 1836, between 90,000 and 100,000 Tracts, and the demand is increasing ; and so are our means for sending them into the heart of the country, through some of our brethren who from necessity lead a traveling life. The Lord bless you, and all the brethren who have already rendered us so much assistance ; but I beg leave to stir up your minds by way of remembrance. *We cannot do without you; and we feel confident you will do what you can.* Multitudes around us are perishing in their ignorance and sins ; we have a way of access to them ; we can tell them through our Tracts that there is a refuge for the guilty, the cross of Christ, and that all who believe in him have eternal life, and shall not enter into condemnation. I hope soon to have a number of young men connected with us who will carry the truth into the most distant parts of Protestant and Roman Catholic Germany.—Dear brethren, send over and help us. Eighteen of my dear brethren in Hamburg are already engaged with me in distributing Tracts. At Oldenburg the little Baptist interest is growing, and our brethren are active fellow-laborers. Through them our publications can be circulated in every direction, in that dark region, and the adjoining parts of Hanover and East

Friesland. In Mecklenburg, where there are hardly any witnesses for the truth, I have one or two friends, who are ever ready to every good work. In Prussia, Russia, and on the Rhine, as also in South Germany, and even in Switzerland, I stand connected with dear brethren who are anxious to co-operate with me in the work."

The Baptist church in Hamburg, has grown from seven to fifty. Churches have been formed in Oldenburg and Berlin, the capital of Prussia; over the last, Bro. Lehmann is pastor. A Tract and a Temperance Society have been formed. A neat pocket edition of Bunyan's Pilgrim has been issued by Mr. Oncken, at his own expense. Mrs. Judson's Memoir, in German, will be issued in July; for which there have been already contributed in this country \$725.61, and \$460.13 (including expenses), paid over; also \$122.93 have been received for German Tracts.

Burmah continues open as an important field for Tract distribution. The results of labor there are most cheering. The contributors for this object since the last Triennial Convention amount to \$240.16.

China also is opening. Bro. Shuck, one of our Missionaries, writes from Macao, August, 1837: "I have written a Christian Tract in the Chinese language, of about sixteen pages, and it is now in a course of publication. The workmen have agreed to cut the blocks, and print and bind 500 copies, all for \$15; furnishing paper and every thing else. I shall have to advance the money myself. Any appropriation for publishing Tracts will be most thankfully received. I rejoice to hear of the good your Society and its publications are doing at home; but what do you intend doing towards publishing Tracts in the Chinese language? To say nothing of the wants of my other dear brethren, I shall need at least \$1000 as soon as you can send the amount to me. Recollect, nothing has yet been done for Cochin China whose written language is the same as the

written language of this empire. I shall now more than ever appreciate the circulation of Christian Tracts, as the amiable Chinaman whom I was lately privileged to baptize, was by the divine blessing led to cast away his idolatry, and to seek the Saviour, mainly from the perusal of them."

Other extensive and important fields for usefulness in Africa, Nova Scotia, Canada, Texas, Mexico, and South America, in which the Society has commenced operations, are needing enlarged appropriations.

Four brethren only, have been employed as Agents during the year—Rev. J. M. Peck, Samuel Glover, E. Goodenough, and Mr. Josiah Reed—and these for a short time only. The number of Depositories is 34; of which twenty-one are owned by the Society. Seven are in the Valley of the Mississippi, with Tracts amounting to \$1,256.75; in the others owned by the Society, they amount to \$1,741.93; in the General Depository, \$2,250.97. Total amount of stock in Tracts, \$5,249.65. The total amount received on the Tract House Fund, is \$861.20. The Library has 200 volumes. It includes also a vast mass of Associational Minutes collected by the Rev. Luther Rice, and presented by him to the Society a short time before his death.

The book business, as connected with the Depository, being found after two years trial to be unprofitable, it was concluded to abandon it.

The total receipts of the Society for the fifteen months were \$10,264.32. Of this \$500 were received from the late Thomas W. Tolman, of Randolph, Mass., who besides this, left a bequest to the Society of \$1000, to be paid hereafter. Of this excellent man the editor of the Christian Watchman says: "He was always ready to every good word and work. For all those institutions which propose as their object the promulgation of Christianity,

his heart and hand were ever open. His benevolence was of the most expansive kind ; and like the lamented N. R. Cobb, whose example it was his aim to imitate, he constantly devoted all his income beyond a certain amount, to the promotion of the cause of Christ. Some years before his death he had resolved to leave for his children only a certain sum ; and when during his last sickness, he found that he was worth some five or eight thousand dollars more than that sum, he conscientiously gave it all to the Lord. He felt that he was the Lord's steward, and that the property which had been entrusted to his care, was to be disposed of according to his pleasure."

In closing their Report, the Board desire to give thanks to God for the success which has thus far attended their labors, and earnestly bespeak for the Society the fervent and believing prayers of all who desire the coming of Messiah's kingdom.

Rev. Barnas Sears, D.D., of the Newton Theological Institution, Mass., presented the following resolution :—

43. Dr. Sears on Germany.

"*Resolved*, That a most interesting and important field is now presented in GERMANY, for the distribution of Christian Tracts, which shall fully exhibit the truth of God in reference to the doctrines and ordinances of the Gospel."

Prof. Sears sustained this resolution by a speech of the deepest interest. Among other things he said, "The field we now contemplate has been opened to us by Providence. Of its importance I need hardly speak. It has a common language, spoken from the Baltic to the Alps, and from the borders of Holland almost to the Turkish dominions. The same Tracts published for this extensive territory may also

be circulated in the German colonies, so numerous and large, both in America and Russia. Germany is the centre of Europe ; and in religion and philosophy is at this moment exciting a wider power than any other country in Christendom. France has, in this respect, lost the first rank. Her language and literature have lost their magic. Germany, with her universities, frequented by the youth, not only of the northern, but also of the southern and western nations of Europe—universities which are becoming the models to other nations, and in which are trained those who in ancient learning are the teachers and guides of their respective countries—Germany, surrounded on every side by those who are drinking in her influences, and who are crossing her territories in visiting other nations, cannot be an unimportant country. Whatever acts upon Germany, acts upon all Europe.

"The character of the people is very favorable to religious impressions. They are characterized by simplicity of heart, by honesty, by fidelity, and by a love of religious fervor. They have few prejudices against foreign books, and foreign opinions ; they have a curiosity to know what others believe, and whether there may not be some truth in it.—The present state of theology invites evangelical effort. Rationalism has had its reign ; truth and nature are beginning to return, after the impulse which removed them has spent its force. The public mind is in agitation ; and while its tendencies are towards sound religion, it is peculiarly open to impression. Revivals under young preachers of the new generation are becoming common in Pomerania, in Silesia, and in the west of Germany. In such a crisis every effort is of great importance. As Baptists, we have fewer obstacles in Germany than at home. The learned theologians generally concede the facts on which we ground our practice ; several of their scholars have recently written in support of them. And though they by a circuitous way,

by philosophical refinements evade the practice, yet the common people naturally adopt the short and simple way of following the Bible. The clergy are not highly respected. They are known to be generally of a secular character, men who preach not for conscience' sake, but for a living. The opposition to our missionaries is chiefly from the police, and that solely from the instigation of the interested clergy. Neither the police itself, nor the common people, have any hostility towards us. On the contrary, our missionaries are often welcomed by them with enthusiasm.

" Furthermore, the character of their religious books leaves us much unoccupied ground. Their books are, with the exception of elementary works for their schools, either critical works for the learned, or merely sentimental productions, dealing only in the poetry of religion. Works on practical piety, combining solid argument with warm appeals to the heart, are scarcely known there. Writings of such a cast as those of Andrew Fuller are not to be found at all. There is, therefore, an inviting sphere of action before this Society.

" Did Providence ever more unequivocally call upon us than in the origin of the German mission? What a man was given us at the very outset! what zeal and piety have marked his course! what success has attended his labors!—It would be ungrateful to God not to acknowledge his goodness in this respect. Mr. Oncken was the first Christian I saw in Germany. I have spent weeks in his family; have traveled with him; have been with him to men in power, and in the abodes of poverty; I have heard him lift up the voice of ardent prayer in the house of nobility, and in the house of affliction and distress; I have heard him exhorting in private, and preaching with a subduing eloquence and holy fervor in public; and I feel called upon to bear this public testimony to his inestimable worth. Such men as these, who know the genius, and habits, and

feelings of the people, who are acquainted with the nature of the government, both in its strength and its weakness, cannot be put down. They know how to make use of public sentiment, to which monarchs must listen.* They often throw the police into a dilemma, from which it would gladly escape. They can pass from one petty state to another, and always find a place to labor, even if persecuted.

"The German mission has remarkable facilities for translating and circulating our best Tracts. To Mr. Oncken both languages are almost vernacular. You have read his letters; certainly no bad specimens of English composition. In conversation you would not detect his German origin, so perfectly easy and natural is his English pronunciation. How easily can he, who is a printer and bookseller too, superintend both the printing and distribution of Tracts?"

After an interesting account of Mr. C. C. Tauchnitz of Leipsic, who was converted, baptized, and ordained to the ministry in England, and is now by the sudden death of his father in possession of the greatest stereotype establishment in the world, "THE TAUCHNITZ PRESS," Prof. Sears closed by saying, "I could tell of the young men who are drinking in our views; of the numerous preachers and theologians of distinction who are almost Baptists, and who are in constant correspondence with our missionary; of the causes which keep so many from acting fully according to their convictions, but I have already occupied too much time."

* A remarkable instance of this is seen recently in the interview of Messrs. Oncken, Lehman, and Schaufler, with the King of Prussia; the particulars of which may be found in the New York Chronicle for March 10, and the New York Recorder and Register for March, 14, 1855. The object was to represent to the King the real condition of the Baptist churches in Germany, and to secure from the King some promised concession of legal protection throughout his dominions.

Rev. Alfred Bennett, agent of the Triennial Convention of Foreign Missions, presented the following resolution :

Resolved, That the blessing of God, which has rested upon the circulation of Tracts in Burmah, China, and other Eastern nations, calls loudly upon us to aid the Baptist General Tract Society, in circulating the truth more widely in all lands.

Mr. Bennett spoke with his usual good sense and warmth of heart in support of the resolution. Referring to the scarcity of money, he said, "The friends of benevolent objects must feel that economy must begin in their own homes, not at the house of God. In the language of a good sister whom he met, they must 'resolve to wear their old cloaks another year, and give the cost of a new one to the Lord's treasury.'"

This hint was not lost. When the collection was taken up, on one of the pledges (which amounted in all to \$263) was written, "_____ has worn the old cloak another winter, and doubles his subscription, \$10."

So great was the interest, that an adjourned meeting was requested.

44. Adjourned Meeting. Resolutions.

On Wednesday morning, at nine o'clock, the members and friends of the Society met according to request of the evening before; and after the meeting was organized, and prayer offered, the following resolutions were presented by Bro. R. Babcock, and their adoption urged. They were seconded by Brn. Ide, Westcott, Allen, Aldrich, and Eldridge, and passed unanimously.

1. *Resolved*, That the Tract cause is deserving of more attention, and of more enlarged and liberal efforts for its

promotion, than have hitherto been bestowed on it by our churches.

2. *Resolved*, That it be earnestly recommended to the pastors of the churches, to bring this subject prominently before their people at least once a year, and secure their aid for its advancement; thus enabling the Society to save the expense of special agents to advocate its claims.

3. *Resolved*, That we recommend to our brethren in the principal cities and large towns, to establish, at their own expense, Tract Depositories for the more convenient supply of their own vicinity.

It was also voted, that Prof. Sears be requested to furnish the substance of his address last evening, to be published with the Report. As the facts it presents are of permanent value, they are given in their place above.

The new Board of Managers, elected at this anniversary, was composed of the following persons: George B. Ide, *President*; Joseph H. Kennard, *Vice President*; Ira M. Allen, *General Agent*; Wm. W. Keen, *Treasurer*; Wm. Ford, *Secretary*; *Managers*, R. W. Cushman, J. A. Warne, John Davis, John Mulford, Jr., Jos. Reynolds, R. Babcock, Jr., Isaac Reed, C. B. Keyes, A. D. Gillette, Wm. Shadrach, Wm. E. Garrett, Thos. P. Sherborne, L. Knowles, Jr., Jacob Reed, R. Fenner, J. B. Trevor, John C. Davis, Wm. S. Hansell, Wilson Jewell, Wm. Vandyke, and John Jones.

45. Fifteenth Annual Meeting, 1839.

The *Fifteenth Anniversary* was held with the First Baptist Church, Philadelphia, Tuesday Evening, April 23, 1839; the President, Rev. George B. Ide, in the chair. Prayer by Rev. Dr. Sharp, of Boston. The Annual Report of the Board was read and adopted, followed by the Report of the Treasurer as usual.

The Annual Report claims a high rank for the Tract cause among the instrumentalities for the world's conversion. "Humble, silent, and unobtrusive, its influences, like the drops of the summer shower, descend in minute and isolated portions, but like them clothe the waste places of the wilderness with verdure and beauty.—The Scriptures themselves were originally promulgated in this manner. The Gospels and Epistles, written separately on rolls of parchment, were in this form widely scattered abroad, and under the blessing of God exerted no feeble agency in spreading through the darkened nations the light of eternal life. In the evangelical enterprises of later days the same instrumentality has been found eminently powerful. Portions of the word of God, and brief exhibitions of scriptural truth, have been distributed among thousands of benighted pagans, and have proved the means of deepening the impressions produced by the voice of the living teacher, and often the means of carrying the knowledge of salvation to regions far remote from the scene of his labors.—What amazing results this form of evangelism is destined to achieve in the approaching conversion of the world, is known only to Him who appoints the instruments, and crowns them with success. To the neglected population of our great cities—to those who 'go down to the sea in ships and do business in the great waters'—to travelers in our steamboats, in railroad cars, and hotels—to the sick in our hospitals—to the soldier in his barrack—to the inmates of prisons and almshouses—to the lone settler on the distant frontier—these silent messengers find the way, conveying the lessons of everlasting truth."

But little, however, had been accomplished the last year in employing these amazing capabilities of good. Only four new Tracts had been added, making the series, with occasional Tracts, 170. Eight thousand copies of Pen-gilly's *Scripture Guide*, and one thousand of the *Baptist*

Manual were published. Whole number of bound publications, 28. Pages of stereotype plates, 3056. Tracts printed during the year, 132,022, making 2,778,774 pages; issued from the Depository, 3,254,220; leaving on hand 2,134,180 pages.

The Baptist Record, as a semi-monthly paper, was gaining patronage, and yielding some profit.

Free grants were made to the amount of \$677.93; distributed mostly in the Mississippi Valley; the balance in Jamaica, Africa, Nova Scotia, Texas, and other parts. Amount received on the Valley Fund, \$928.40; making in all, \$3,778.65. Balance due the Valley Fund, \$1,364.84. Amount received for foreign fields only \$125.15—a sum incredibly small for a work so immense. In Germany especially the blessing is great. An edition of 5000 copies of the Memoir of Mrs. Judson, in German, was issued during the year by Bro. Oncken, who also solicits aid for publishing his German translation of Pengilly's Scripture Guide. An appropriation of \$421.57 had been sent him.

As to Agents, the Board use decisive language. "The experiment, which we have tried for three years past, of collecting funds for the purpose of the Society, without the employment of traveling agents, has proved utterly futile and delusive. In the present state of the churches, we must have agents to present to them the claims of the Society, or nothing comparatively will be done." Gratuitous services had been rendered by brethren R. Babcock and J. M. Peck, and three traveling agents. Messrs. Sutton, Courtney and Leighton had been appointed. A few auxiliaries had been formed. Depositories 27; of which 13 are owned by the Society; 3 were formed during the year. The Library had received a valuable accession of books and curiosities from Bro. Malcom and the Calcutta Baptist Missionaries. Tract House Fund, \$910.49. Total

receipts of the year, \$9,223.26 ; expenditures, \$9,682.43 ; balance in the Treasury, \$354.43. Among the donations was a bequest of \$300, from Mrs. Abigail Marshall, of the Oliver St. Church, New York.

46. Duty of the Denomination to this Cause.

Several new instances of the influence of Tracts are given in the Report, which makes a strong appeal on the obligations of the denomination to take a deeper hold of this cause. "How absurd the infatuation which would hoard treasures for a future generation, when the problem is yet to be solved whether the leveling spirit of Infidelity shall not ere long break down the barriers of law and order, and revel in the possession of those accumulations which, if earlier and more faithfully used, would have cured these social evils.—What excuse can we offer if any of the souls of this generation remain unblest with the proffer of the knowledge of God. Our Society proffers the very facilities which seem requisite for such a purpose. It is hindered by no conventional compromises, but furnishes the whole truth in doctrines and ordinances, and is on this account more likely to secure the favor and confidence of Baptists, as well as more likely to do good to the souls of men, than those institutions which venture to put asunder what God has joined together. Such are the facilities which our plates and presses, our Depositories and Agents furnish, that with a very slight additional expense, the Society might double its actual issues ; and by the more vigorous co-operation of brethren in all parts of our country might vastly enhance its means of usefulness."

47. Enlargement of the Society proposed.

A careful revision of the whole list of publications is suggested by the Board, with a view to the correction or substitution of Tracts already approved. It is also proposed to secure additions to the series of (1) several *Brief Narrative Tracts* of four or eight pages, attractive in style and incident, direct in pungent appeals to the conscience and heart, fully imbued with evangelical truth and the benevolence of the Gospel; (2) the regular publication every year of an *Evangelical Almanac and Baptist Annual Register*; and (3) the issue of *Bound Volumes*, to consist of *Doctrinal Series*, a *Historical Series*, and a *Biographical Series*.

This last fruitful suggestion—the germ of subsequent changes and enlargements—is vindicated as follows: “There can be no doubt that the object and design of the Society, as set forth in the Constitution, embraces a sphere as wide as this; and the examples of the American Tract Society, the Religious Tract Society of London; and indeed the practice of our own Society ever since its removal to this city, proves the propriety and usefulness of the circulation of volumes, as well as smaller Tracts. The Board are deeply impressed with the conviction that a vigorous effort should be made the present year to commence the publication of volumes in each of these series. Baptists, as a denomination, have no reason to be ashamed of their history; and the memorials of many of the early laborers for the promotion of Christ’s cause in this and in other lands, will be directly adapted to furnish the instruction and encouragement which we need, to prompt us to more self-denying and enlarged enterprises for the advancement of the Redeemer’s kingdom. These memorials may be secured by a timely effort, and that kind of co-operation

which it is believed this Society may call forth and concentrate. Another generation will find it more difficult, if not impossible, to gather up these precious fragments of history and biography.—Such a series of publications as those above proposed are most likely to secure a ready perusal, and exert a salutary and widely extensive influence.

48. Resignation of Mr. Allen.

The resignation of Rev. Ira M. Allen was announced by the Board in this Report, in the following terms : "The Society will hear with regret that we are hereafter to be deprived of the services of our esteemed General Agent, who for the last eight years has laboriously, faithfully and successfully served this Society. This, indeed, is not the place or the time for the expression of all that is felt on this subject. So arduous has his service become by his extensive acquaintance, and the multifarious character of official and unofficial duties which it involved, that his health considerably failed during the past few months ; and with the strongest assurance on his part of continued zeal for the welfare of the Society, with whose operations he has been so fully identified, he has expressed his decided determination to withdraw from this important and responsible post."

The Report closes with an expression of devout dependence upon God for success in all its future operations.

Its acceptance and publication were sustained by remarks from Rev. S. W. Lynd, of Cincinnati, Baker, of Norfolk, and Ilsley, of Brooklyn ; after which Rev. Baron Stow, of Boston, offered and supported the following resolution :

"*Resolved*, That the enlargement of operations proposed in the Report be approved by the Society, and the Board be instructed to carry it into effect as early as possible."

He adverted to the origin of the Society—to the honored names of DAVIS, KNOWLES, STAUGHTON, and REYNOLDS—now all gone! Of all its founders, only one or two besides himself remained. He spoke of the usefulness of its publications which had come under his own eye. He liked the word *enlargement* in the resolution he had offered. Having assisted in rocking the cradle of the Society in its infancy, he felt a very strong desire to see and to aid it now in assuming the manly attitude of mature years; and he could not doubt the willingness of the churches, if properly solicited, to furnish the requisite aid to enable the Board to extend their operations as proposed.

A collection of \$56.40 was taken; after which, on motion, it was resolved, that the Constitution be so amended as to give to the Board the appointment of all its Agents.

In the new Board, Daniel Dodge, Richard Gardiner, David D. Stewart, George Swope, Benjamin R. Loxley, and James M. Linnard, took the place of R. W. Cushman, John Mulford, Jr., Joseph Reynolds, Thos. F. Sherborne, J. B. Trevor, Wm. Vandyke.

49. Sixteenth Annual Meeting, 1840.

The *Sixteenth Anniversary* of the Society—the epoch of its reorganization and enlargement—was held at the Tabernacle Church, N. Y., on Tuesday, April 30, 1840; the president, Rev. G. B. Ide, in the chair.

The Annual Report, drawn up by Dr. Jewell, opens with an able and accurate sketch of the origin and progress of the Society up to that time—a period of over sixteen years. This sketch occupies eleven closely printed octavo pages, and is a valuable paper for reference on account of its inti-

mate knowledge of affairs for the latter years of the period embraced, and its concise clearness of exposition.

The change occasioned by the resignation of the General Agent the year before, which it was supposed would have thrown the business department of the Board into confusion, caused less inconvenience than was anticipated; and although much extra labor was thrown upon the new agent, Rev. BENJAMIN R. LOXLEY, and the several committees, yet the thorough examination of the books and papers thus required, could not fail to result in the ultimate benefit of the Society. Mr. Loxley had received an appointment as Assistant Agent under the former Board, previously to the resignation of Mr. Allen, and had thus formed some acquaintance with the business operations, from his frequent intercourse with that brother, who afforded him every aid in his power. Still it became necessary for him to apply himself closely, and long, before he could transact all the business in a satisfactory manner, and bring the books and accounts into a satisfactory condition. Great credit is awarded him for this in the Report.

The general depression of benevolent enterprise during the year led to necessary retrenchments and rigid economy; and every thing was done with an eye not only to the scarcity of funds and the difficulty of collecting debts, but also to the contemplated reorganization of the Society, to prepare for which a Circular had been drawn up and sent abroad.

The new publications of the year were three Tracts and three bound volumes. The Volume enterprise was begun by the issue of "Booth's Reign of Grace," "Backus' Church History," and "Memoirs of Distinguished Christians"—one in each of the three great departments proposed last year, the Doctrinal, the Historical, and the Biographical series. These volumes are distinguished by the interesting quality of their contents, and the neatness of their mechani-

cal execution. The cost was \$445.57. The information thus diffused was admirably adapted to the wants of the denomination, and the very best of its kind in each department.

The number of pages of Tracts printed was 1,552,962, at a cost of \$1035.31. The free grants, owing to the want of facilities for their distribution, amounted to only \$87.35, or 131,025 pages.

The semi-monthly paper, the Baptist Record, had reached a circulation of about 1900 copies, and many friends were desirous of its weekly issue in the same form and size.

The stereotype plates were 3615; less than one-half of which were of a denominational character. The original cost is put down at \$3615. The Tract House Fund was \$938: no steps having been taken to increase it.

Only one traveling Agent had been employed, the Rev. C. B. Keyes.

From thirteen auxiliaries \$677.90 were received. Of the twenty-eight Depositories, with Agents attached to them, most were supported by the Society, and were doing very little. Some were regarded as a dead letter.

The total amount received into the treasury for the year was \$8607.05.

50. The Society's Work in Sixteen Years.

This statement of the operations of the year 1839-40, is given in the Annual Report, in connection with the epitome of the proceedings for the preceding fifteen years, as the last part of a whole, then completed. The results of the entire history are then modestly and happily summed up thus: "After this hasty and imperfect review of the Society's proceedings since its earliest formation, the question

may be properly asked us, ‘What has been accomplished?’ In answer to this we would refer you to the following summary of business transacted during the sixteen years of our existence

“TABLE OF RESULTS.

The receipts of the treasury have been	\$86,048.40
There have been stereotyped a series of Tracts from No. 1 to No. 160, comprising eight entire volumes, together with nine occa- sional Tracts and three bound volumes.	
The whole number of Tracts printed have been	3,341,906
The pages of which amounted to	53,910,952
Of the Triennial Register, there have been printed an edition of	2,509
Of the Society’s periodical, (July 1827, to Jan. 1836), the Tract Magazine,* (copies)	147,450
Of the monthly paper (now the Baptist Record), there have been issued, <i>in four years</i> , (Jan. 1836, to April 1840), copies to the num- ber of	150,600
The principal and interest of the Tract House Fund	\$938,49
The number of Auxiliary Societies is	430
“ “ Branch Depositories,	28
“ “ Life Directors,	147
“ “ Life Members,	653
The Society owns of Stereotype Plates, Which cost	3615
	\$3615

“And if the question shall be asked, ‘Why more has not been done in this open and extensive field of labor—why,

* Estimated from data nearly perfect.

as officers of this Society, we have not fulfilled our task?" we would reply even as did the officers of the children of Israel to Pharaoh: "Wherefore dealest thou thus with thy servants? There is no straw given unto thy servants, and they say to us, Make brick: and behold, the fault is in thine own people."

The Board having thus closed their account of the past, turn their glance to the future; and in anticipation of the changes required, and the new career of the Society in an enlarged form and with rejuvenated strength, utters the following impressive appeal:

"The circumstances of the age; the animating prospects of the Christian Church; the growing influence of our denomination; the constantly increasing evidence of the happy results of this system of benevolence, in the pleasing instances of conversion; and the frequent and urgent calls upon the Society for grants and supplies of Tracts, which owing to the limited state of finances your Board have been unable to supply; have, with other considerations, led them to submit to the denomination a Circular, which contains a brief outline of an enlarged plan of operations. The views contained in the Circular it is unnecessary to detail in this Report, as they will come before you in their proper time and place. Suffice it to say, the suggestions thus made, we have every reason to believe, have met with the decided approbation of the active friends of benevolence, and awakened new desires to sustain an effort, which by due vigilance and exertion is destined, not only to consolidate the feelings of our multitudinous denomination, but to subserve the interests of the Redeemer's kingdom, by renovating and evangelizing the mass of society, and by achieving the predicted triumphs of the Cross.

"It cannot but strike the minds of those who have observed with any degree of care the particulars of the operations of this Society, and have traced its progress step by step

through the sixteen years of its existence, that extreme vacillation has marked its path ; and that its prosperity has been by no means adequate to the magnitude of the work that it was called to perform. One principal cause for this partial failure, has been, we believe, the want of concert in operation, and intercourse with each other as a denomination. Had our fellowship in this enterprise been attended with union and harmony of movements—had there existed that enlargedness of heart, that genuine charity, that self-devotion, and cordial co-operation in sustaining all the salutary measures which have from time to time been devised by the Board, for the enlargement of the kingdom of Christ through our publications, we should have been at this day a trumpet-tongued advocate, proclaiming the truth everywhere, and with a power and an influence irresistible dissipating moral darkness, and pouring in the light of Christianity and the blessings of the Gospel, causing the ‘parched ground to become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water.’ But such has not been the case, because the enterprise has not been appreciated to that extent which its high and holy objects demanded.

“ We rejoice, however, to know that we have done good. We have circulated thousands and tens of thousands of our little messengers over the length and breadth of the land ; and we have had returns. The news of salvation, through the humble instrumentality of our Tracts, has reached the ears of thousands who were perishing, and they have been reclaimed. But, brethren, the day of judgment alone will reveal the influence we have been the means of exerting upon this fallen world.

“ While, however, we behold so much sin and wickedness abounding, and know how much is to be accomplished, and *that* without a miracle or a new revelation ; and when we see our brethren who ought to be ‘the salt of the earth’ looking on with slothful indifference, want of zeal, con-

tracted liberality, and framing excuses from poverty, obscurity and ignorance—thus losing sight of their obligations and their responsibilities; and when we discover how disproportioned and misdirected is the zeal of those who indeed bear up this benevolent work, compared with the mighty results charged to its account—we have indeed ample reason to say that the churches are not half awake; and that while they contend for the ‘mint and cummin,’ they lose sight of the nobler end in view, and allow the tempestuous elements of their natures to separate them from the good they are capable of accomplishing, and of rendering that aid which the Saviour demands at their hands.”



H I S T O R Y.

P A R T II.

1. New Organization desired as early as 1835.

As early as 1835, in the great meeting of the Triennial Baptist Convention, at Richmond, a proposition was made to give a more enlarged scope to the work of the Baptist General Tract Society, so as to embrace the publication of Books as well as Tracts, and to place its operations on a more adequate and effective footing. The proposition was hailed with joy ; and after free deliberation, the following resolutions were unanimously passed, embodying the collective voice of the denomination from Maine to Mississippi :—

“ 1. That it is expedient, and the time has arrived, to have a Society to publish and circulate valuable Books, particularly of a denominational character, for family use, Sunday Schools, &c.

“ 2. That the Baptist General Tract Society be requested so to alter its constitution, and change its operations, as to include such publications ; and that the publication of Books and Tracts by that Society should be confined chiefly to such as set forth the peculiar, and, as they are believed to be, scriptural principles of the denomination.”

A committee was appointed to visit Philadelphia, and
10* (113)

obtain the concurrence of the Board of the Tract Society. But owing to various engagements, including the appointment of its Chairman, Rev. Howard Malcom, as a deputation to Burmah, that Committee never met; and this noble and much-needed arrangement, stamped as it was with the seal of general approval, by the General Convention, and by the Periodical Press of the whole denomination, was delayed for five years longer. How true, in reference to ourselves, are the words of Dr. Wayland : "It is the misfortune of man to be wise a century too late."

2. A Baptist Sunday School Union proposed in 1839.

The Board of the Baptist Tract Society did from time to time agitate the subject. But what could they do, alone ; and struggling under financial difficulties from want of co-operation, which threatened, as we have seen, the dissolution of the Society ? At length help was given them from an unexpected quarter. The Hudson River Association, at its session in 1839, pressed on the denomination the necessity of a Baptist Sunday School Union, to furnish a juvenile literature, corresponding to our scriptural convictions.

3. Broader Plan of the Board. Appeal

This step encouraged the Board of the Baptist Tract Society to issue a circular through the Baptist Record of March 25th, 1840, which was extensively circulated by other papers, calling upon the denomination so to modify the Tract Society, as to embrace the new field of labor pointed out by the Hudson River Association, and any

other class of publications demanded by the general good. They also submitted the following plan for their consideration :

" 1. The name 'Baptist General Tract Society' to become extinct, and that of American Baptist Publication Society to be substituted.

" 2. The Constitution of the present Society so to be altered, as to enable it not only to publish and circulate Tracts, but Sabbath-School books, also Biographical, Doctrinal, Historical, and other valuable religious works as shall be required, and which publications shall embrace chiefly those of a denominational character.

" 3. That an amicable agreement be entered into with the American Tract Society, and the American Sunday-School Union, to obtain their publications on the best possible terms, and that they be circulated by our Agents, and sold at our Depositories, in connection with our own denominational publications, and at such prices as will enable us to cover contingent expenses on all sales.

" 4. That immediately after this organization shall have been effected, measures be adopted to put into extensive circulation, in each State of the Union, the publications of the Society by the establishment of Depositories, *and the appointment of traveling agents who shall be well supplied with our denominational Tracts and Books*, and also with the publications of the American Tract Society and the American Sunday-School Union.

" 5. That one or more General Agents, a Depository Agent, and an Editor of the Society's publications, men of business habits, of experience and talents, be appointed to superintend the operations of the Society.

" 6. That an arrangement be entered into with the New England Sabbath-School Union, either to amalgamate, or to supply us with a large and very general assortment of their publications."

The Circular closes with these words: "The above outline of a plan for the more permanent and enlarged sphere of usefulness of what is now our Tract Society, is thus presented and urged upon your pious meditations. *It is an undertaking of the greatest importance to us, as a distinct and separate denomination.* The positive advantages that must accrue by spreading before the young and the old a Baptist literature, by introducing to the rising generation the names and the writings of those distinguished men who have contributed so largely towards the shedding of religious light and truth upon the world, and by enlisting the talents of eminent Baptists of the day—are second to none.

"For the means of effecting this truly noble design, we look to our brethren, who have never been backward in contributing of their influence and their substance to the cause of benevolence and religion, when properly presented to their minds. In this instance we confidently ask and expect your countenance and support, and the rest we leave with God. Nor can we doubt, that when you reflect upon the utility and necessity, for some system of operations that shall *supply with well-written Tracts and Books of a denominational character* the young, the middle-aged, and the aged, Sabbath-Schools and families; *and more especially a system, which designs to carry them to the door of every Sabbath-School*—a system, too, that we are encouraged to believe will give a new impulse to all who are in anywise engaged in this expansive benevolence, that will strengthen the hands of those who are discouraged, and brighten the dying hopes of the desponding—you will give the above proposition your most earnest and prayerful reflection, and be prepared to instruct your delegates at the ensuing anniversary, when this matter shall come before them in a proper shape, to contribute all their influence in its behalf by a decided vote for such a reorganization of the Baptist General Tract Society."

4. The Reorganization in 1840. New Name.

At the Annual meeting of the Tract Society, held in the Tabernacle Church, New York, (as recorded in Part I. of this History,) the new plan proposed by the Board, came up for deliberation and action, after the reading of the Annual Report. It was vigorously sustained in an address by Rev. Rufus Babcock, D.D., who urged it from the number and necessities of the denomination—the freedom and evident force of our principles—and the aid it would afford not only to *pastors*, but to our *missionary* efforts, both Home and Foreign. He also urged as indispensable to future and enlarged success, the importance of *enterprise* in the Board and Agents, together with cheerful *co-operation* on the part of ministers and churches.

Rev. A. D. Gillette, as Secretary of the Sunday School Convention, called at the instance of the Hudson River Association, and which had just held its meetings in Oliver Street, was requested to read their minutes, which he did; and it was found that there was a remarkable coincidence of views between the Convention and the Board of the Tract Society. The Constitution prepared by the Committee of the Convention, and reported through Bro. C. G. Sommers, was then read, and considered article by article, and adopted with the utmost unanimity, by vote on the following resolutions:

“*Resolved*, That the Constitution of the Baptist General Tract Society, be so amended as to read as follows:*

“*Resolved*, That all persons who are now Life Members

*** CONSTITUTION.**

ART. 1. The name of this Society shall be—“The American Baptist Publication and Sunday-School Society.” Its object shall be, to publish such books as are needed by the Baptist Denomination, and to promote Sunday-Schools by such measures as experience may prove expedient.

or Life Directors of the Baptist General Tract Society, shall be entitled to all the privileges heretofore belonging to them, and be considered as Life Members and Life

ART. 2. Any person may become a member of this Society by paying, annually, the sum of one dollar or more; a Life Member by the payment, at one time, of twenty dollars; and a Life Director by the payment, at one time, of fifty dollars.

ART. 3. There shall be a public Anniversary Meeting of the Society at such time in the month of April or May of each year, and at such place, as shall be appointed by the Board, when the following officers shall be chosen by ballot, viz:—a President, one Vice President from each of the States, a Corresponding Secretary, who shall be the Editor of the Society's Publications, a Recording Secretary, a Treasurer, and twenty-one other Members, all of whom shall be members of Baptist Churches, who, together, shall be a Board of Directors for the management of the concerns of the Society, of whom five shall constitute a quorum. The Board shall have power to appoint Agents; a Committee of Publication, of not less than five, whose duty it shall be carefully to examine all works proposed for publication by the Society, preparatory to their being committed to the Editor; and to fill any vacancy which may occur in its own body.

ART. 4. The Directors shall superintend the publication and distribution of such Books, Tracts, and Periodicals, as they may approve,—the establishment of Depositories,—and the formation of Auxiliary Societies, &c. They shall hold frequent meetings, under such regulations as they may adopt, in conformity with the general provisions of this Constitution. They shall appoint the place and hour for the Annual Meeting of the Society. The Directors and the Treasurer shall make an Annual Report of their proceedings.

ART. 5. Any Sunday-School Union, or Society, or any Tract Society, by forwarding to the Corresponding Secretary a copy of their Annual Report, with their Constitution and list of Officers, shall be considered an Auxiliary. The Board may grant special privileges to other Societies, if they deem it expedient. Auxiliary Societies shall be allowed, and are requested, to send one delegate to the Annual Meeting of this Society, to represent them, who shall have the privileges of a member.

ART. 6. Life Directors, Life Members, Annual Subscribers, and Auxiliary Societies, shall be entitled to purchase the Publications of the Society at reduced prices.

ART. 7. The Corresponding Secretary shall conduct the correspondence of the Society,—shall superintend its publications, under the direction of the Board, and perform such other duties as appertain to his office.

Directors of the American Baptist Publication and Sunday-School Society.

"*Resolved*, That a Committee of one from each State represented, be appointed to nominate a list of Officers."

The following were the officers nominated and chosen :

"*President*.—Rev. George B. Ide.

"*Vice Presidents*.—[These amounted to twenty-six—one from every State in the American Union, then existing, from Maine to Louisiana.]

"*Treasurer*.—Wm. W. Keen.

"*Recording Secretary*.—Wm. Ford.

'*Board of Directors*.—Daniel Dodge, Charles B. Keyes, Wm. Shadrach, John Davis, A. D. Gillette, Isaac Reed, Levi Knowles, Jr., Richard Gardiner, J. C. Davis, W. S. Hansell, Jacob Reed, R. Fenner, J. Jones, J. W. Hayhurst, George Swope, J. M. Linnard, George Higgins, Wilson Jewell, David Clark."

The appointment of a Corresponding Secretary was left to the Board. After several disappointments, they united in calling to that important office, Rev. Morgan J. Rhees, who entered upon its duties November 17, 1841.

A new code of By-Laws, adapted to the new functions of the Society, was drawn up, and the requisite number of Standing Committees appointed, on Publication, Finance, Accounts, Appropriations and Agency, at the first meeting of the new Board.

The number of Life members was *forty-five*, and of Life

ART. 8. The Recording Secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of the Society, and of the Board of Directors.

ART. 9. The Treasurer shall receive all moneys intended for the Society, and shall give to the President, for the time being, satisfactory security for the safe keeping of the funds committed to him.

ART. 10. The President shall call a meeting of the Society at the request of a majority of the Board of Directors.

ART. 11. Any alterations of this Constitution may be made at an Annual Meeting, by the concurrence of two-thirds of the members present.

Directors, *five*—which had been added during the year: making the whole number of the former 653, and of the latter 147, at the time of the reorganization of the Society.

5. Technical Errors.

Two errors of a technical character appear in the Society's Report for 1841. Its new name and "amended" Constitution, we suppose, led the Secretary to speak of it as a *new* Society, instead of a continuation and expansion of the Baptist General Tract Society; although all the preceding documents are carefully worded to sanction the latter and juster view. The change of name, the enlargement of function, certainly did not destroy, nor was it designed to destroy its identity. To suppose otherwise, seems very much as if a man whose name has been changed by an act of the Legislature, should date the years of his life from the time of that event. It is surprising that the Board sanctioned the error for full ten years. The correct phraseology was restored in the published Annual Report of 1853.

The other error, as it seems to us, is, denominating the Report of 1841, "The *Second* Annual Report of the Publication Society." For, even if it were admitted that a new Society was originated in 1840, it had never issued a *First* Report in its own name. The proceedings of 1840 form a part of the Sixteenth Annual Report of the Baptist General Tract Society.

We would not attach too much importance to mere names, but we believe, in view of all the antecedents, the Report of 1841 should have appeared as the Seventeenth Annual Report of the (now called) American Baptist Publication Society.

6. The Seventeenth Annual Meeting, 1841.

The Society, reorganized under the new Constitution as the American Baptist Publication and Sunday-School Society, held its *Seventeenth Annual Meeting* with the Sharp Street Church, Baltimore, on Wednesday, April 28, 1841,* the President, G. B. Ide, in the chair.

The Annual Report was read by the Corresponding Secretary, MORGAN J. RHEES. It opens with a lucid exposition of the power of the Religious Press as an auxiliary to the Christian Ministry. "To millions the preacher cannot now, and may not soon, have access; to millions more his instructions can only be occasional, and at long intervals; but the Bible and its truth explained and faithfully applied in a religious Volume, or Tract, will go with its possessor where he goes, be at his fireside and in his chamber; and a still small voice from its impressive pages will whisper to the careless and profane, 'Prepare to meet thy God;' to the anxious sinner, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved;' and to the Christian in every circumstance it will present the consolations and encouragements of the Divine promise.

"The American Baptist Publication and Sunday School Society was organized, that *the whole truth* might be more speedily and more extensively circulated than it could be by individual enterprise. It was called for by the wants of the denomination as well as the condition of the world. A full conviction of the need of such an organization influenced the brethren, who, a year ago, resolved to change the Baptist General Tract Society into its present form; and the spirit in which the notice of the new organization had been received, is full assurance that they had not anticipated

* Called by mistake, in the Annual Report, the "Second Anniversary."
—See last page.—J. N. B.

the demands of the churches. The resolution of the Hudson River Association, (which has been responded to by many other associations,) expressed the feeling of the denomination on this subject as far as it has been elicited.

"Resolved, That this Association regard the recent formation of the American Baptist Publication and Sunday-School Society as an event in the history of our denomination, calling for devout acknowledgment to the God of all grace. That in the entire unanimity with which the measure was adopted—the judicious selection made as to the permanent location of the Society, and the character of the brethren entrusted with the management of its affairs, we find a sure guarantee of its rapid growth and extensive usefulness; and we fondly cherish the hope that it will ere long enjoy a share in the sympathies, prayers, and contributions of our churches, *on a footing of equality with our Bible and Missionary Societies.*"

These glowing hopes were not realized. The Board found their means wholly inadequate to enlarged Book operations—and the painful disappointments and delays attendant upon securing a Corresponding Secretary, added greatly to their embarrassment. Even after the entrance of Rev. MORGAN J. RHEES upon the office, Nov. 17, 1840, his labors were limited to the settling of principles and plans of future action, and the careful editorial superintendence of the Society's publications.

In the Book Department, where already a good beginning had been made in 1839, by the issue of Backus's Church History, Booth's Reign of Grace, and Christian Memoirs, there were added during the year 1840, Hinton's History of Baptism (5000 copies), Jewett on Baptism (1000 copies), Hall's Sermon on Modern Infidelity (1500 copies); two Sunday-School books—the Floods, and Gertrude the Peace-Maker; together with a new

edition of the Baptist Manual. A neat 12mo. edition of Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress was also stereotyped.

7. Want of Working Capital.

On one point the Report speaks plainly, and points out the absolute necessity for a greatly enlarged working capital. "Several other valuable works have been, and are now under consideration, some of which would be at once adopted and published *if the Society had a fund ample to meet the necessary expenditures.* Much delay is experienced in consequence of this want of funds, though the hope is entertained that this difficulty will soon be removed by the liberality of the denomination. *Many of our brethren would write for the Press, if they could receive a reasonable remuneration for the time and labor expended; and the Board would gladly remunerate them, if their resources would justify them in so doing."*"

Of Tracts 684,832 pages were printed, and 1,200,000 circulated; but no new Tracts were added to the Society's series during the year.

Of the Almanac and Baptist Register for 1841, 8350 copies were printed, and about 7000 put into circulation. It was issued in November, from statistics hastily gathered, and consequently inaccurate.

8. Weekly Baptist Record

A more important step was the change of the Baptist Record, from a semi-monthly to a *weekly* paper, in September, 1840. A large increase of the subscription sus-

tained the change, the circulation rising to 3100 copies weekly. As there was no increase of price, the paper relied for its editorial management on the gratuitous services of several of the city pastors, to save it from proving a losing concern. It thus secured a valuable weekly organ of communication with the churches—especially in Pennsylvania, where no other denominational paper was then published.

9. A Baptist Hymn Book proposed.

The plan of a Hymn Book for the whole denomination was under advisement by the Board, which should be not only adapted to the wants of the churches, but being held as denominational property might come into common use. The whole question was referred to the judgment of the denomination.

No agencies of importance were undertaken. A few volunteer efforts only were made.

10. Work of Colportage. First in America.

But the most interesting item in this Report is that which reveals the commencement of its great *constitutional* work of COLPORTAGE. In this work, it appears from the documents, that the American Baptist Publication Society has the honor of taking the lead in this country. While on this subject THE AMERICAN TRACT SOCIETY was yet slumbering, our feeble Society was awake and moving. Nearly a year before the American Tract Society held its first informal meeting to discuss the question of COLPORTAGE, this Society had settled the question, and *entered*

it in its Constitution as one of the grand levers of its future movements. Under the name of "traveling agents," as we have already seen, this new feature of its system was announced. The technical name of *Colporteurs* appears for the first time in any regular American document, in our Annual Report of labor performed for 1840-41. Under this head we read the following remarks :

"*Colporteurs.* A few traveling agents, upon the Colporteur system, have been employed. The amount of their business has not been extensive; but the Board believe that when this system can be brought more largely into operation, particularly at the South and West, it will effect great good. *It will require a large increase of capital to enable the Board to use this system as extensively as they wish.* When this is furnished, an experiment can be made, which will test the feasibility of the plan; and *which we think will prove it to be a most important means of doing good.*"

But alas, the large increase of capital demanded for this branch of its operations, and essential to its high efficiency, was strangely withheld by the denomination; and the great power of COLPORTAGE soon passed mainly into other hands. The *first* became *last*, and the *last first*. Such is the righteous and inflexible law of Christ's kingdom. When shall we learn wisdom?

Thirteen Life Directors were added by the payment of \$50 each, and eighteen Life Members by the payment of \$20 each.

The receipts from all sources amounted to \$12,165.77; when full \$100,000 was really needed, at once, to put the Society into its proper working power. Had the churches met this necessity nobly and promptly, what a different history might have been here recorded! What a different aspect would to-day have been seen over the whole denomination! Works would have been accomplished in *five*

years, which yet remain in a hopeless attitude at the end of fifteen or sixteen weary years of delay. Time, toil, sacrifice, anxiety, harmony, reputation, power, usefulness, how have they been wasted by exhaustion and faintness at this vital centre of the Society's operations !

The expenditure of the year was \$11,428.29 ; leaving a balance of \$737.48, and a total of property of all sorts belonging to the Society of \$8,300.31. And this was all we had to represent before the world the entire publication strength of a denomination, consisting at that time of about 8000 churches, and 600,000 communicants, with a population of not less than three millions—equal to that of the entire nation when it entered upon the great struggle of the American Revolution ! What sort of an army could have been raised and equipped at that crisis, for the sum of \$8000, or even \$12,000 !

11. Counting the Cost of the Enterprise.

The Report of 1841 closes with the following effort to rouse the denomination to "*count the cost*" of this great enterprise.

"In conclusion, the Board feel it to be their duty to say, that if the denomination expect the Society to prosper, and to effect the object of its organization, *a considerable amount of capital is required*. There should be *enough* to enable the Board to invite brethren to give attention to the talent they possess, and furnish books on important topics, expecting to be reasonably remunerated for their work ; there should be *enough* to publish the books thus furnished, and pay the printer, and the paper-maker, and the binder when the work is finished ; there should be *enough* to enable the Board to employ competent and trustworthy brethren to

distribute the books thus published in all parts of the land, allowing them a liberal compensation for their services. When this is supplied, the operations of the Society will sustain themselves, without making further demands upon the liberality of the churches, except for such free grants as may occasionally be called for to supply missionary stations and other extremely destitute places. These would be usually met by regular receipts from auxiliaries for these objects, so that no appeal would be required for help to sustain the Society. In this it differs from every other benevolent enterprise. *Once liberally establish it, and it will perpetuate itself.*

"Can this be done? An average of ten cents from each communicant of our churches (\$60,000) would do it. A Life Membership established by each of our churches (\$160,000) would do it, and at the same time would furnish them with an amount of religious reading, the good results of which are incalculable. And *can* not, and *will* not this be done? *Will our brethren who are able to furnish the means suffer the Society to remain so restricted in its resources and in its operations, for want of the means of increase?* We propose the question. We commend you, in preparing your answer, to the consideration of the final account to be rendered of your stewardship, and only ask that it may be such as will then secure to you the testimony, '*they have done what they could.*'"

The Annual Report was sustained by Dr. W. B. Johnson, of South Carolina, seconded by E. Kingsford, and ordered for publication. On motion of S. W. Lynd, of Cincinnati, seconded by T. F. Caldicott, of Roxbury, Mass., it was,

"Resolved, That the objects of the American Baptist Publication and Sunday-School Society are highly important to the promotion of the cause of truth, and commend it to the fervent prayers and liberal contributions of

the Baptist denomination, that they may speedily be accomplished."

On motion of J. Tinsley, of Charlottesville, Va., it was, after much discussion,

"*Resolved*, That it is desirable that our whole denomination should use, in the praises of the sanctuary, the same Psalms and Hymns and Spiritual Songs; and that to effect this object, the Board of Directors of the American Baptist Publication and Sunday-School Society be advised to take measures for the publication of a denominational Hymn Book."

12. Eighteenth Annual Meeting, 1842.

The Society held its next Annual Meeting with the First Baptist Church, in New York city, Wednesday, April 27, 1842. G. B. Ide, President, in the chair. Receipts for the year, \$12,778.05; expenditures, \$12,489.12. Balance on hand, \$288.93. The Corresponding Secretary, M. J. RHEES, read the Annual Report of the Board. It opens with a just complaint:

"The Publication Cause has not received from our denomination that measure of support to which it is entitled. In some of the departments of Christian benevolence a good degree of liberality has been manifested, and the appeals which have been presented have met a cheerful response. In many churches systematized efforts are made for their support and increase; but the instances are rare indeed, in which this cause is regarded as worthy of a place in such systematic contributions. All that is contributed comes from a few individuals, who feel the importance of such efforts to circulate the truth, or is elicited in small amounts by the personal and earnest appeals of Agents engaged in this enterprise. These contributions, in

the most favorable times, would not be sufficient to sustain an enterprise *requiring a large capital on which to work*, and in the present distressing state of monetary affairs, they supply almost nothing.

"It cannot then surprise the Society that little has been accomplished. The wonder is that any thing has been done—that the *unoiled machinery* has not broken down—not that it *creaks*, as it moves heavily in its progress.

"Other denominations do not permit their Publication department to suffer, nor do they esteem it second to any other in importance. They furnish liberally the means to circulate their views of truth; and the PRESS, with all its mighty power, is kept busily occupied in supplying to their Agents the material with which their own opinions and feelings are to be transferred to, and interwoven with the judgments and the feelings of their fellow men.

"We have had to refuse numerous applications for our publications to be kept on sale, and have thus doubtless lost the sale of very many books. But experience has taught us that it is far better to keep out of debt, than by enlarging our business to involve the Society in an embarrassing amount of obligation."

A 12mo. edition of the Pilgrim's Progress, of 3000 copies, and an equal number of Howell on Communion, had been issued during the year. Two editions of Dr. Fuller's Sermon on "The Power of the Cross," a small Sunday-School book called "Father's Apples," and a "Catechism for Children in Three Parts."

13. Plans Formed, but Delayed

Plans had been formed by the Board for the issue of a series of volumes in uniform style, to be called "The

Baptist Family Library." Also for a series of Sunday-School books, composing a Baptist Sunday-School Library. Several other publications, also approved by the Board, were all kept back for the same reason—the want of funds. Towards the expense of publishing Fuller's Works, \$855 had been subscribed.

Six new Tracts, and one occasional Tract, had been added to the series, making the number 167. Four numbers of a series of Illustrated Tracts for Children, designed for distribution in Sabbath-Schools and in families. Also 5000 copies of a Sunday-School Teacher's Address to Parents, an occasional Tract. Tracts printed during the year, 88,632, containing 1,006,656 pages; gratuitously distributed, 320,160 pages.

The Baptist Record had been continued weekly, with an issue of 3300 copies, and without loss; and 10,000 copies of the Almanac had been published and sold.

Negotiations had been opened for the preparation of a Baptist Hymn Book of a high character.

Rev. J. M. Peck had labored as an Agent in the Western States for several months, both for this and the newly formed auxiliary Western Baptist Publication Society, whose seat is Louisville, Ky.

A few Colporteurs had been employed in Kentucky and Tennessee; more might have been profitably engaged but for want of funds.

14. Waste of Energy, Time, and Means.

Thus the want of funds is found to cripple and confound every movement. And the Board close their Report with another urgent representation of this deplorable fact. "*It is vain,*" they say, "*to conceal the fact, that unless our operations are enlarged, it is almost useless to attempt any*

thing. The small amount that is done requires the occupancy of as much care and talent, and the expenditure of almost as much in salaries and expenses, as would suffice for these things if a much larger business were carried on. And it is in vain to hope that the requisite talent can be secured and confined to so limited and inefficient an operation.

15. The Question of Life or Death.

"But must we then let the Society die ? By no means. It would be a disgrace to us as a denomination, able as we are to sustain it ; and worse than this, it would be a serious injury to the cause of true religion. Let it die, and where is the counteracting influence to the errors which are so widely circulated ? Oral instruction can never follow to every fireside the tracts and volumes which are scattered with almost wasteful profusion by the enemy of all righteousness. The Society then *must live*. And that it may live, there must be more prayerful liberality exhibited in its behalf, by those who have an abundance of the necessary means for its support.

"We ought to enlarge our Tract operations, both in the number of new Tracts published, and in the quantity distributed.

"We ought to carry out the contemplated plans of Family and Sunday-School Libraries ; and to add to each of these series one dozen good and valuable publications during the year.

"We ought to have a capital secured which would enable us to make that increase, and put in operation plans to secure for us and for the world some works of incalculable value, which will require much time and expense in their preparation.

"We ought to have a sufficient number of faithful and competent Colporteurs to visit all the destitute parts of our country, and leave with the inhabitants Books and Tracts, which might point them to the Saviour and teach them their duty.

"And last, though perhaps not least in importance, we ought to be enabled to supply our Missionary Societies throughout the world, with a sufficient amount of publications to meet the numerous demands upon them.

"And can we not do, and have, these things? Is it so utterly beyond our power, that we are prepared to go up to the judgment and plead that we *could not* meet the claims upon us? Let us first know what it will cost. We repeat, that TEN cents from each communicant, would lay the foundation firm and sure for its ultimate accomplishment. Who *cannot* give this? And if there are those who *will* not, cannot the remainder make up the deficiency?

"*Brethren, the work is to be done, and it will be done!* God's purposes will be accomplished, and his promises fulfilled, and the results will be brought about by human agency. *We may hold our peace.* *We may altogether refuse our aid;* yet will there enlargement and deliverance arise from another quarter. But *we*, so highly favored, and yet so ungrateful; *we*, who know our duty, but who do it not, will be removed out of the way; and the curse of Meroz may fearfully fall upon us, because we *came not up to the help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the mighty.*"

This stirring Report—full of such humiliating yet undeniable truth, was adopted by the Society, after a most effective address from J. M. Peek, of Illinois. It was immediately succeeded by the following resolution, moved by R. Babcock, and seconded by T. O. Lincoln, accompanied by appropriate addresses:

"Resolved, That it be recommended to the churches throughout our land, to contribute during the present year to the funds of the American Baptist Publication and Sunday-School Society, a sum equal to *ten* cents for each member, to establish a PUBLISHING FUND, or CAPITAL, with which the important designs of the Society may be carried into execution."

In the choice of officers for the year, RUFUS BABCOCK, Jr., was chosen President; WM. W. KEEN, Treasurer; MORGAN J. RHEES, Corresponding Secretary; and ARTHUR P. DREW, Recording Secretary, in place of Dr. Wilson Jewell, resigned.

16. Nineteenth Annual Meeting, 1843.

The Annual Meeting of the Society for 1843, was held April 26, with the Pearl Street Church, Albany; the President, Rufus Babcock, D.D., in the chair. F. Wayland, D. Benedict, and J. Dowling appeared as delegates from the Rhode Island Baptist State Convention.

The Treasurer's Report showed that the attempt, or rather recommendation, of the preceding year, to raise a PERMANENT FUND for Publication, by means of an average contribution of TEN CENTS *per member* from our churches, had proved an utter failure. Instead of \$60,000 or \$70,000, to have been obtained in this way, it appeared that the entire *contributions* of the year amounted to only \$1,550.95; and the receipts from all sources to but \$9,906.04; including \$1,371.16 for the BUILDING FUND, employed as a loan, reducing the actual receipts to \$8,553.38; while the appropriations were \$9,869.27, leaving a balance of \$37.27.

17. Common Mistakes as to the Society. Its Great Object.

The Annual Report of the Board, prepared by MORGAN J. RHEES, late Corresponding Secretary, (but resigned), was read by J. M. PECK, just elected as his successor. It turns mainly and strongly on the painful fact of the failure in regard to funds. The extraordinary financial pressure over the country is not deemed sufficient to account for it. *The very superfluities of Baptist living, it is urged, would have been ample to furnish a permanent working capital to their Denominational Publication Society.* Hence it is justly inferred that the cause lies deeper —far deeper. The calm inference from the facts is thus stated :

"The great objects of the Publication Society do not seem to have been *rightly understood*, or properly appreciated, by our denomination, if we may judge from the amount of liberality manifested for their attainment. Some have looked upon the Society as a mere organization for the transaction of a business, admitted to be important, but yet expected to maintain itself by its own operations. All its expenditures have been measured by the amount of its business, and not by the ENDS which were to be aimed at ; and if the profits upon the mere sales did not defray them all, it has been considered as a losing concern, and those engaged in its management, and those receiving compensation for services rendered to it, have been esteemed as thriftless in their expenditures, or as receiving an *unearned* compensation from its treasury. This view of the subject has tended to dry up the streams of Christian benevolence, which ought to have flowed into it, and thus prevent or greatly hinder the accomplishment of the primary designs of the Society.

"The Constitution provides, that 'Its object shall be to

publish such books as are needed by the Baptist Denomination, and to promote Sunday-Schools by such measures as experience may prove to be expedient : in other words, to provide and put in circulation a Sunday-School and general literature for the denomination. That this object is important, all will admit ; and when we contemplate the means by which it is to be effected, the importance of the Society as the instrument, and of large resources with which to work, will be apparent.

18. The Means necessary to accomplish its Object.

"In providing this literature, or publishing the books required by the denomination, the agency of the Press is needed to a *very large* extent. It is not to publish a small book, or a Tract once in a while, that will supply the wants of 700,000 Baptist communicants, and the population of the country connected with them, with religious reading ; the Press must be kept constantly employed. Reprints of standard works written by our fathers, or of modern works of value issued by our brethren in the old world ; and the publication of original works prepared for the Society by those who have been gifted for the task, upon every point of Gospel doctrine and practice, upon every subject connected with the past history, the present efforts, and the future prospects of the Church of Christ, in styles adapted to the learned and the illiterate, to the maturest capacities of the aged and the immature but expanding faculties of the young, are necessary ; and these, too, published in sufficient quantities to supply the wants of the vast multitudes who look to us for instruction upon every subject pertaining to the religion of our Lord Jesus Christ.

"This it will be seen will require a large expenditure of

funds, merely to procure the materials and keep the Press in motion; and will engage the time and energies of many more persons than have ever yet been employed by this Society.

"But this is not all. The books thus published are to be circulated, or the object of their publication cannot be realized. Nor can their circulation be secured by any existing facilities. Some can be disposed of at the Depositories of the Society, or by booksellers who may be disposed to encourage their sale. The quantity, however, must necessarily be limited; and those which are thus sent forth will not reach the mass of those by whom they are most needed, and for whose especial benefit they are published. *They must be carried to them*, and sold where they can be, and given away where there is either indisposition or inability to purchase.

"There needs to be (at the least) an average of two or three efficient Colporteurs in each State of our Union, who with an ample supply of these publications, should visit every church, every Sunday-School, and every family in the land, and who shall not be dependent on their sales for their maintenance, but who shall receive salaries as missionaries, and be accountable for all the sales they effect; while each one should be authorized to give away (within certain limits) where he discovers that the Cross of Christ could be promoted by this course. These Colporteurs may often be laymen, competent to all the business transactions of their station, and in whose hearts a fervent desire for the prosperity of Zion and the salvation of souls has been kindled by the Divine Spirit, leading them to deny themselves, and to spend their lives in doing good to their perishing fellow men. But frequently, and especially in the West and South, our traveling ministers and missionaries will do the work with excellent effect. Every Methodist circuit and stationed preacher is a Colporteur for their

"Book Concern," and is constantly supplying the people among whom he labors with the publications of that denomination. The Free Will Baptists of the North do the same. The efficiency and influence of our traveling ministers would be increased by this measure.

"The amount of sales effected would probably keep up a supply of the books disposed of; but the expense of sustaining the Colporteurs, of furnishing books for gratuitous distribution, of publishing the first editions of new works, and of managing the machinery of the whole operations at home, should be derived from the benevolence of the disciples of Christ, to whom he has entrusted the silver and the gold, saying, 'Occupy till I come.'

"This also, it will at once be perceived, will require a large amount of funds; without which the object of the Society can never be more than partially accomplished. But is not the object of sufficient magnitude, is not the amount of good to be effected by these means, sufficiently great to justify this expenditure? What instrumentality can we exert or employ, which gives such glorious promise?

"Amidst all that was discouraging, the Board have not dared to abandon the objects for which the Society was reorganized. They have endeavored to persevere, cheered by the hope that the churches would come to their help, and furnish the means to supply the wide field of destitution in our own and other lands."

19. Work of the Year.

And what had they been able to accomplish of the great work of which they had given so lucid an exposition? Six 12mo. books, bound as the first of the "Baptist Family Library." Three small volumes issued for Sunday-Schools,

"Memoir of Mrs. Eliza G. Jones," "The Spiritual Voyage," and "Effie Maurice," an illustration of the First Commandment. One new Tract, "God and Mammon," added to the series, and two occasional Tracts transferred to it. Tracts printed, 95,640 copies, containing 1,262,680 pages; and 158,000 pages of Tracts and books to the value of \$157.74, gratuitously distributed. Of the Baptist Record, 3000 copies, and of the Almanac, 11,000 circulated. An arrangement also, entered into with Gould, Kendall, and Lincoln, for the preparation and joint issue of a denominational Hymn Book. Two Agents, M. J. Rhees and J. M. Peck, employed a few months of the year. Very little Colporteur agency, for want of stock to supply, and funds to support, the Colporteurs. Such is the sum of the year's work by our Society, representing the strength of the Baptist community in the United States! A gratuitous provision was recommended of \$10 Libraries for Poor Ministers.

The former Corresponding Secretary, Mr. Rhees, having resigned on the ground that the necessities of the Society demanded a traveling Financial Secretary, Rev. JOHN M. PECK, of Illinois, had been chosen his successor.

20. New Resolutions.

The Report of the Board was accepted, on motion of D. Benedict, of Pawtucket, and ordered to be published. The following resolutions were adopted on motion of Wm. Hague and J. E. Welch.

"Resolved, That in view of the corrupt and demoralizing literature of the age, sent forth like a desolating flood over our whole country, our denomination needs a constant supply of sound religious Books and Tracts, to

preserve the minds of our numerous converts from the errors to which they are exposed, and train them up in holiness and active service in our benevolent undertakings."

"*Resolved*, That the project of providing our destitute ministers and missionaries in the Western Valley with small Libraries, is an object of paramount importance in the operations of the Society, and deserves the cordial co-operation of the benevolent."

On motion of Wm. Crane of Baltinore, the sympathies and thanks of the Society were tendered to the late Treasurer, W. W. Keen, "for the faithfulness and correctness with which he had gratuitously discharged the duties of the office for many years past."

On motion of J. S. Bacon, of Charlestown, Mass., the Board was authorized and instructed to so arrange the Editorial labors, as they might deem expedient, to enable the Corresponding Secretary to devote a portion of his time to traveling as General Agent.

On motion of J. M. Peck, *Resolved*, That we renew the recommendation to the churches throughout our land, to contribute to the funds of this Society a sum eqnal to *ten cents* annually for each member, to provide a Publishing Fund; so as to enable the Board to supply Colporteurs and other persons with publications for sale; and also to furnish donations in Books and Tracts to Sunday-Schools, missionaries, and others who need help.

A final resolution, bore cordial testimony to the fidelity and zeal of the late Corresponding Secretary, Rev. Morgan J. Rhees, together with his uniformly kind and Christian spirit.

In the choice of officers, RUFUS BABCOCK was re-elected President; J. B. TREVOR was chosen Treasurer; J. M. PECK, Corresponding Secretary; LEVI KNOWLES, Jr., Recording Secretary. No other changes of importance

are found in the Board, nor in the subsequent Standing Committees.

21. The Circular of 1843.

In connection with the Annual Report, the new Corresponding Secretary, J. M. PECK, issued a Circular, dated July 10th, 1843, calling general attention to certain salient points of the Society's operations—past, present, and future.

The fact is stated that the Baptist Tract Society during the sixteen years of its operations raised and disbursed \$86,048; printed about 3,000,342 Tracts, including fifty-four million of pages; making seven bound volumes of between 300 and 400 pages each.

PARAMOUNT OBJECT.

The paramount object of the Society, to the attainment of which all our aims and measures should be steadfastly directed, and to the accomplishment of which our prayers should be addressed to Him who hath the residue of the Spirit, is, *to make our denomination, and all others over whom we have influence, a reading, thinking, working, and devotedly religious people.*

Next to the voice of the living teacher, the Press is the instrumentality to be employed. To attain this great end by the Press, the Society proposes four leading measures.
1. The gratuitous circulation of religious publications as widely as possible among the destitute in our own and other lands. In the Southern and Western States there are thousands who can be reached through the agency of our denomination to a far greater extent than by others.—2. The publication and distribution by sale, at low prices, of religious books for family and general reading. There is a great de-

mand for such, South and West, and even in the Middle States. Thousands of volumes could be readily sold, and would be eagerly read, if brought to the people.—3. The supply of our ministers with small and select libraries. Two thousand Baptist ministers at least need, and would gladly use them, if they could get them. It would warm them with gratitude and double their usefulness.—4. The encouragement of Sabbath-Schools and Bible classes, and supplying them with small libraries. These are all objects worthy of the united efforts of the denomination. The Board can accomplish this work no faster than the means are furnished by the churches.

FUNDS WANTED.

They must have *a permanent capital* to do business. Churches, whether in the city, the village, or the country, require a house of worship and appendages. This is their permanent capital. A College or Theological Seminary must have a capital, laid out in buildings, apparatus, library, and the endowment of professorships. So with a Publication Society. It cannot print, or purchase tracts and books, and send them to the extremes of the country, without permanent capital.

A few hundred dollars may make and put into circulation one book; but it requires many thousands to publish the number and variety necessary to supply our destitute churches and people, even supposing every one is returned to be again sent out in the form of books and tracts. Suppose the Society employ 100 Colporteurs, and furnish each with 300 dollars' worth of books—this would require a capital of \$30,000, (independent of the support of the Colporteurs, or the payment of their traveling expenses.) In no other way could \$30,000 be more beneficially employed. They will visit Associations, Churches, Sunday-Schools and families; preach the Gospel to the

destitute; inculcate habits of reading, sober thought, and devout practice; thus providing a sort of substitute for the deficient means of pastoral instruction in a large number of our churches, especially in the Western Valley. This is the plan substantially practiced by the Methodists, with great efficiency and economy. All their circuit preachers are Colporteurs—and supply their people and others in every part of the United States with their books. And their people have contributed liberally, to the amount of two or three hundred thousand dollars, to build up and sustain their "Book Concern."

LOCAL DEPOSITORIES.

"We receive frequent applications for Depositories of books, in states, districts, towns, cities and villages. Such Depositories have been tried in the Bible, Tract, and Sunday School operations, in every part of the country, and especially in the Western Valley, at much extra cost, and very little good purpose. *People from a distance will not resort to such Depositories.* The sales are not enough to pay the expense. It would require a capital of at least \$100,000, to establish these Depositories where the people suppose they are needed.—If our brethren want a stock of books or tracts for local purposes, let them raise the funds, send the money to the Depository in Philadelphia, and they will be promptly supplied at the lowest rate."

MUTUAL CO-OPERATION.

To facilitate the co-operation of our brethren in destitute parts of the country, the Board recently adopted the following resolution:

"Resolved, That Auxiliary or co-operating Publication Societies, Associations, State Conventions, and General Associations in those States and Territories, especially in

the Western Valley, that are properly *Missionary* ground, be authorized to receive books to the full amount of funds contributed, with the understanding that they employ and superintend the labors of Colporteurs, or employ their ministers for the circulation of books and tracts, and the formation of Sunday Schools."

"Will our brethren in those parts raise and send us funds on the conditions proposed? Let the books received be put in the hands of such brethren as will be responsible for them, and return the proceeds (deducting the percentage allowed) to purchase more books. In the Western and Southern States we have a numerous class of preachers, who, if supplied with books, would make efficient Colporteurs."

These are the leading points of the Circular, though much abridged. It closes thus: "We now ask each hearer and reader of this Address—Will you contribute something immediately to the Society?—Will the Church or Association to which this Circular is addressed, take up a public collection for us?—Will you constitute your pastor a Life Member by the payment of \$20? Or a Life Director by a donation of \$50?—Will you become a Life Member, or a Life Director on these terms? By this you may aid most essentially our Missionaries and other ministers on the frontiers. You may indeed deprive yourself of some trifling gratification—some article of dress or luxury, that in this period of embarrassment you may have the means to do this; but you will create an exquisite luxury in doing good, which will last through life, and fill your heart with emotions of unutterable joy and thankfulness.

"On behalf of the Board, J. M. PECK, *Cor. Sec.*"

22. Appendix to the Circular.

The above Circular has an Appendix of very important matter, entitled, "Hints to ministers and others who wish to engage in distributing the Society's publications." We cite only an italicized caution from No. 3. "*In no case should a person pay out money received for books for any other purpose, however great and pressing may be his necessities. It is a dishonest breach of trust, and must be treated accordingly.*"

A second Appendix of a statistical character relates to the points desirable in getting out the Minutes of Associations. We quote from No. 4 a suggestion equally important now as then.

"We need at the Publication Office *two copies* of the Minutes of each Association—one for our permanent file, to be bound and preserved—the other to clip up for our periodicals."

Twentieth Annual Meeting.

The Annual Meeting for 1844, being the Twentieth Anniversary from its origin, was held with the First Baptist Church in Philadelphia, April 24, in connection with the session of the last Triennial Convention; the President, R. Babcock, D.D., in the chair. The corresponding Secretary, J. M. PECK, read the Annual Report of the Board. From the Report, it appears that the operations of the Society had been increased about one-third; "not so much by the enlargement of funds, as by effecting more rapid sales"—turning the small and utterly inadequate capital to better advantage.

No new Tracts were issued, but 394,363 pages had been

reprinted during the year. Two small Sunday-School books, "John Frink" and "Father's Apples," were added to the series, and "Gertrude the Peace-Maker," stereotyped. "Booth's Reign of Grace," "Backus' Church History," Pengilly, a Baptist Catechism, and an improved edition of the Baptist Manual, were reprinted.

24. The Psalmist.

But the most important issue was that of the "Psalmist," in three forms and various styles of binding, the last of August, 1843. According to the contract with Gould, Kendall, and Lincoln, "two sets of stereotype plates were furnished the Society, for the use of which and the privilege of copyright, we pay a perquisite on the copies we publish." Five editions, of 6000 copies in all, met a rapid sale, while the Boston publishers, also, sold 25,000 copies. The book was received with general approbation as the standard Baptist Hymn Book.

Of the Almanac, 12,000 copies had been sold. The Weekly Record was still continued, though not fully paying its expenses, under the conviction of its great usefulness, especially as an organ of the Society; 2700 copies being issued weekly. Extra papers, without charge, were occasionally sent out, filled with matters of direct importance to the Society's operations. "In no other way can information of our plans, modes of action, and the character of our publications, be communicated to the Baptist churches at so cheap a rate, or impressions so deeply and permanently made in favor of the Society."

CHEAP MONTHLY PERIODICAL.

"The importance of a cheap *Monthly Periodical*, in pamphlet form, as the organ of the Society, and a medium

of correspondence with the churches in every part of our common country," having been long felt by some members of the Board, at the close of 1843 the Monthly Baptist Record, "made up from the columns of the weekly paper, and devoted to some of the leading interests of the denomination," was projected, and three numbers issued, (comprising 5400 copies) when it was amicably merged with the "Baptist Memorial," the Society having a joint interest in the "Memorial," and the Secretary being one of its Editors.

All subscriptions obtained through the agency of the Society became its property.

H. A. Smith, of Chenango county, N. Y., and J. B. Olcott, of Greene county, N. Y., were employed a short time in the summer as collecting Agents and Colporteurs with good success.

The Corresponding Secretary had acted with untiring energy. Besides 850 circulars and written explanations, he had written over 500 letters, visited and addressed in fourteen months 78 churches in 13 States, preached 140 sermons, made 45 public addresses, attended three Associations, four State Conventions, and traveled 8863 miles. His life was mercifully preserved in the terrible wreck of the steamer Shepherdess on the Mississippi River. Some of the members of the Board also had performed agency service.

25. Value of Colportage.

The experiments in COLPORTAGE made in Pennsylvania, Illinois, Missouri, Kentucky and Tennessee, demonstrate its economy, safety, and efficiency. It involves no complicated machinery, nor costly agency. "Our Colporteurs, instead of being paid salaries," with equipage and traveling

expenses, "receive a commission on sales." Pious, discreet and efficient men, can in this way sustain themselves, provided the Board has means to furnish them with sufficient stock. They visit families, attend protracted and other meetings, Associations and Sabbath-Schools, supply the people with suitable publications, and cultivate habits of reading. In most cases they will be ministers of the Gospel. Throughout the South and West, appointments for preaching can be made, and congregations gathered on week-days as well as Sabbaths. These are providential circumstances, which make such Colportage highly expedient. A very large proportion of our churches in that part of our country have regular visits from a pastor but once a month. The monthly meetings always include two days. On Saturdays, not only church members, but many other people assemble for worship. This furnishes the Colporteur an admirable opportunity to dispose of his books. Baptist pastors and itinerants can do what every Methodist circuit preacher has always done—supply the churches with the means of instruction from the Press. Without this system, indeed, the Publication Society can effect but little, in providing for the spiritual wants of the most needy of our churches.

Gratuitous distributions of Tracts to meet urgent calls were made to the amount of \$268.67; grants to Sunday-Schools to \$20; and for 13 Ministers' Libraries in Illinois and Missouri, \$120, from funds especially designated for this purpose.

Since 1840, a period of four years, 25 Life Directors and 62 Life Members have been constituted—aiding our funds by \$2,490. As, before 1840, there were 147 Life Directors and 653 Life Members, we now have, including these, 172 Life Directorships and 715 Life Memberships—each of which is entitled to receive back one half of the sum paid, in the publications of the Society, leaving only

one half to enlarge our permanent funds. If each Church and Sabbath-School would unite in making its pastor and superintendent a Life Director or Life Member of our Society, its operations might at once be multiplied *tenfold*.

The whole receipts for the year were \$12,714.94; payments, \$12,599.08; leaving a balance of \$115.94. Stock on hand, exclusive of \$1200 sent to Colporteurs, \$6,376.94—the whole amount of the Society's present working capital! How utterly inadequate to its vast object! How utterly unworthy of the vast resources of the denomination! Will the churches, after so long a delay, take hold of this Society, and enable it to consummate the important end for which it was organized?

26. Proposed Fifty Thousand Dollar Fund.

The Board recommend to the Society a direct and persevering effort to raise \$50,000 IN FIVE YEARS, at the rate of \$10,000 each year, on the following plan:

Each year twenty Life Directors at \$50 each,	\$1000.00
One hundred Life members at \$20 each,	2000.00
Five hundred Annual Subscriptions at \$1 each,	500.00
In public collections, donations, legacies, &c.,	1500.00

\$5000.00

Fifty Associations, Conventions, &c., for a "Book Fund" in each of these bodies, annually, for five years, on an average, \$100 each, \$5000,00 Making a total of \$10,000 for each of the five years, and a grand total of \$50,000 as a permanent capital for the Society. It is believed that this plan is perfectly feasible. It will require the active services of four Agents, including the Corresponding Secretary, to execute it.

27. Matter of Fact Appeal.

The Report concludes with the following strong and peculiar appeal :

"The circumstances of the great family of Baptists in North America are somewhat peculiar. In past years, with a Ministry regarded by some Christian sects as feeble and insignificant, they have increased in church communicants in the ratio of *doubling every twelve years*. In half a century, from about 400 churches and 70,000 communicants, we have increased, in the regular connection, to about 9000 churches and 750,000 members. Yet we have less than 6000 ordained ministers and licentiates," including those superannuated, and those employed in other professional pursuits, or secular labors for a support.

"A considerable proportion of our ministers are *evangelists*—deficient in qualifications for the pastoral office. Yet many of this class are peculiarly successful in publishing the elementary truths of the Gospel to their fellow men. They are admirably adapted for the work of pioneers in the destitute parts of our country, and the Holy Spirit owns their labors in the conversion of great numbers annually, who, if it were not for their instrumentality, would be wholly destitute. These men are well fitted to perform the first branches of the Great Commission. They can teach the elements of Gospel truth, so as to be instrumental in making disciples, and they can baptize the converts; but they cannot well carry out the Commission in teaching them to observe all things which Christ has commanded. They cannot train up the disciples and mould the churches so as to render them efficient, and infuse into them the spirit of Christian enterprise.

"This state of things is not so much the result of neglect, as of the rapid increase of our churches and membership by the special providence of God. Hence the

peculiar necessity in our denomination of the agency of a Publication Society.

“Those two great Societies, the American Sunday-School Union and the American Tract Society, have each a field of operation large enough, in providing for the religious wants of the destitute on union principles. They cannot reach our churches only in a partial and incidental way. *Baptists must provide for the wants of Baptists.* We belong to the same household of faith. If we do not provide adequate means of instruction, who will?”

28. The Weekly Record. Changes in the Constitution.

This able Report of the Board was adopted, on motion of S. W. Lynd, D.D., of Ohio, seconded by J. Belcher, D.D., recently from England.

A committee was appointed on the “Weekly Record,” consisting of A. Wheelock, J. M. Peck, M. J. Rhees, William Crane, J. C. Crane, and D. Benedict, who ultimately reported the following resolution :

“*Resolved*, That while this Society have confidence in the wisdom and economy of the Board in managing the WEEKLY RECORD, yet should an opportunity be afforded, they recommend to have that periodical placed under the responsibility of some individual publishing house or company, provided an arrangement can be made so as to secure the best interests of the Society in its publication.” This Report was adopted.

The Committee on the Constitution recommended several changes, which were adopted. The first of the amendments struck out the words “Sunday-School” in the title of the Society, in order to shorten it. The others were more practical. They appear in the revised printed form here-with subjoined.

29. Encouragements.

On motion of A. Sherwood, of Illinois, seconded by J. M. Pendleton, of Kentucky, it was,

"Resolved, That the project of the Board for raising \$50,000 in five years, meets the approbation of the Society, and is cordially recommended to the confidence and liberality of the churches," &c. &c.

A warm interest was manifested on this occasion. Addresses were made by brn. Sherwood, Babcock, Peck, Alderson of Virginia, Tucker of Indiana, Brown of New Hampshire, Cressy of Ohio, Fuller of New York, Tenbroek of Michigan, Dodge of Philadelphia, and Everts of New York, followed by subscriptions in most cases of \$50 each. The sum of \$725 was pledged in a few moments.

On motion of Bro. Kincaid from Burmah, sustained by several other brethren, but with a most impressive recital of facts by the mover, it was *"Resolved,* That the blessing of God which has attended the distribution of religious books and tracts in Europe, Burmah, China, and other foreign countries, calls loudly on the churches to aid the Baptist Publication Society, that it may have means of appropriation to the foreign field."

Under these encouraging circumstances the Society adjourned, to hold a special meeting on the third Thursday in May, to consider, and if expedient, adopt the charter, then pending before the Legislature of Pennsylvania.

Before adjournment the choice of officers for the year had been accomplished and announced. Dr. Babcock having declined a re-election, J. H. KENNARD was chosen President, J. B. TREVOR, Treasurer, B. R. LOXLEY, Assistant Treasurer, J. M. PECK, Corresponding Secretary, and LEVI KNOWLES, Jr., Recording Secretary. Several unimportant changes were made in the Board.

30. Circular of 1844. The \$50,000 Fund.

A Circular was issued with the Annual Report, expounding more in detail the plan for raising a capital of \$50,000, presented in the Report, and unanimously approved by the Society at the great and enthusiastic meeting just described. Though the Society had authorized the Board to employ the Agents necessary to carry it into effect, and it appeared so perfectly feasible, yet like every preceding effort to awaken the churches, it failed of success.

31. Twenty-First Annual Meeting, 1845.

The next Annual Meeting of the Society was held with the First Baptist Church, Providence, R. I., April 30, 1845; the President, J. H. Kennard, in the chair.

The Charter granted by the Legislature of Pennsylvania at its last session, was presented by the Corresponding Secretary, and it was *Resolved*, That it should be accepted, and the Constitution be so modified as to agree with its phraseology. Brethren Babcock, Wattson, Marchant, Aldrich, and Maginnis, were chosen a Committee on the Constitution for this purpose.

The Treasurer's Report was read. Receipts from all sources, (including a loan of \$2,400,) \$20,803.78; Expenditures, \$20,785.24; balance in the Treasury, \$18.54.

An abstract of the Annual Report of the Board was read by the Corresponding Secretary, J. M. Peck. It announced the death of two distinguished Vice Presidents of the Society, Rev. Jonathan Going, D.D. of Ohio, and Rev. W. T. Brantly, D.D. of South Carolina, formerly of Philadelphia, and for many years an active member and President of the Board under the Tract organization.

A summary is presented of the work of the Society from 1840 to 1844—showing a total of Bound Volumes published in four years, 34,750 ; of pamphlets, 5000 ; of Tracts, 266,573 copies, including 3,345,411 pages, besides 114,000 pages of extra Tracts. For gratuitous distribution in the same time 1200 Annual Reports, and 5000 extra Records. And for sale, 30,000 copies of the Almanac and Register, and 54,000 copies of the Weekly Record. To which may be added 5,500 copies of the Monthly Record. There were put into circulation 102,000 bound volumes ; of which 25,000 only were of the Society's own publications ; the others being drawn from kindred societies and the house of Gould, Kendall, and Lincoln. Most of these went into the Southern and Western States.

32. Loan of \$2400 necessary.

During the year 1844-5, the business had so increased, and the demands for books become so pressing, as to induce the Board to effect a loan of \$2400, to enable it to supply the demand for books. Several new publications were issued, besides the reprints—as Bunyan's Holy War, Carson on Baptism, Aids to Devotion, Our Saviour, Ministry for the Times, Facts on Popery, and the first volume of The Complete Works of Andrew Fuller. Also, two new Sunday-School books, Anna Bailey and Simple Stories. Most of these works were stereotyped, making 2561 pages, at a cost of \$2,707.75. The Psalmist continued to be called for extensively ; 8000 copies were published during the year.

33. Complete Works of Andrew Fuller.

It was not without correspondence and consultation that the Board decided upon the plan and style of publishing the Works of Andrew Fuller. Of three plans presented, the one adopted was approved with almost entire unanimity. "The first volume is a fine large octavo of 740 pages, good paper and fair type. The second is in press; and the whole will be issued in three volumes, with no other delay than is necessary to secure good execution, under the editorial supervision of Rev. Dr. Belcher, a scholar and popular writer, intimately acquainted with the writings of Fuller. He has collected the whole, arranged the volumes in topical order, and appended valuable notes. Much new matter will be added, drawn from the Scotch Magazines and other sources, to enrich this complete edition.

"We expect calls for this work from others besides our own brethren. No minister or intelligent layman of the Evangelical School, can consider his theological library furnished without the writings of Andrew Fuller. There is very little in the mass of his writings that is strictly denominational. His field of thought and labor was the great doctrinal truths received in common by most evangelical sects. And however he may have been misunderstood by his opponents, no writer has ever more fully illustrated, or successfully defended, the doctrine of sovereign efficacious grace in the salvation of sinners, through the vicarious sufferings and justifying righteousness of Jesus Christ, and the mighty working of the Eternal Spirit, in consistency with the entire accountability of man, and the duty of all who hear the Gospel to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ that they may be saved. It is expected that the ministry of our churches, and theological students, will procure these volumes whatever else may be wanting in their libraries.

34. Dr. Carson on Baptism.

"The masterly work of Dr. Carson on the Baptismal controversy, with a memoir of his life prefixed, makes an octavo volume of 550 pages. It is unquestionably the most learned, logical, and complete work on this controversy ever published. And it is a mournful record we have to make, that the venerable author has just finished his earthly labors. His numerous writings are now in process of publication in England. How far it may be desirable for the Board to bring them before the churches in America, can be better decided when they are before us in a complete form."

35. Other Work of the Year.

"Since the last anniversary, the Board have put into circulation 41,740 volumes; of which 14,858 were our own publications, and 26,882 volumes were purchased from others.—Of the regular series of Tracts, the Board have issued 44,474 copies, including 840,069 pages." Of our nine Tracts for children, 11,194 copies and 44,775 pages.

The Almanac and Register for 1845 is more complete than heretofore in its statistics; the number published was 16,000. The Weekly Record had an increase in January of 500 copies for Missouri, raising the issue to 3,150. Of the Baptist Memorial, 350 subscribers belong to the Society, all of whom pay in advance. A little effort might increase the number here taken of this valuable periodical.

The Christian Review, 43 copies; Missionary Magazine, 244; Sunday-School Treasury, 37; Young Reaper, 61; Mother's Monthly Journal, 44; Macedonian, 1523 copies, are also circulated from our Depository.

Two agents, H. H. Haff and J. B. Olcott, were employed in the State of New York, a part of the year, with encouraging results. C. C. Williams, a member of the Board, spent a few days successfully. And the Corresponding Secretary had traveled in his agency 6034 miles, preaching 69 sermons, and delivering 33 public addresses in behalf of the Society.

"The Board, as heretofore, will continue to use due caution and economy in the employment of collecting Agents. Yet such are the habits of our churches, so large a proportion are destitute of pastors, so many and pressing are the duties of pastors, and so frequent are the calls for Christian liberality, that Agents are an indispensable part of our moral machinery. As a religious work, it calls for much self-denial, constant absence from home, exposure sometimes to unkind surmises, and admits of a less compensation than that of the regular pastor. But it is a work to which the Apostles and their fellow-laborers submitted, as is plainly evident from the 8th Chapter of the Second Epistle of Paul to the Church of Corinth."

Such were the sound views of the Board on the subject of Agency in 1845.

36. Two Plans of Colportage.

On the subject of Colportage the Report is very full and discriminating. It presents two systems—a primary and a secondary. The primary, as adopted and acted on by the Society from the first, resembles that of the Methodist Church—the employment of itinerant ministers and missionaries, supplied with books on a per-cent-age, but without salary from the Society. This has been perhaps sufficiently described heretofore in this document. But the secondary system, which is that of the American Tract

Society, and provides at least a salary—perhaps also an outfit and traveling expenses, came but slowly and partially into use with our Society. The first instance of it occurs in the Report of this year. It is introduced in the following manner:

"There is another feature which may be introduced with great effect and at small expense, and which is specially desirable in those parts of our country where missionary aid is necessary. The Society has had one Colporteur and Missionary employed a part of the last year on a definite salary, and the per-centage on books sold, after meeting incidental expenses, is placed to the credit of the Society. As an illustration of this feature in Colporteur operations, and its admirable adaptedness to those parts of our country where the destitute circumstances of the people do not permit them to purchase many books, and where missionary labor is specially needed, we submit a synopsis of a few months labor performed by Rev. A. B. Harris in Illinois, Missouri, and Kentucky. During six months he traveled 2486 miles, visited 40 different churches and 275 families for religious purposes, preached 66 sermons, made 28 addresses, sold 644 volumes, and distributed about 9000 pages of Tracts. His salary was \$75, and traveling and other incidental expenses, including freight on books sent him, were \$27.12. Sabbath-Schools, Temperance, and every good work occupied his attention. A large proportion of the churches visited were destitute of regular pastors, and have only occasional preaching. Mr. Harris has been re-appointed for the same field on a pledge of \$100 from Milford, N. H.

"This experiment shows that for each \$100 special donation for this purpose, a missionary can be sustained in the most destitute parts of the United States. The percentage on sales will make up his small salary. But it is

only a class of self-denying and single men, like the one named, that will perform this laborious work.

"The most numerous class of Colporteurs we employ are those ministers who spend such portions of their time as they can itinerate, which will average from 50 to 150 days (besides Sabbaths) in a year. About 20 such are in commission. Those in the employ of Missionary Societies, of course, devote their whole time to this work.

"Having fully explained the theory and tried its efficiency by practice, we now submit it to the Society, the churches, and the public. It is chiefly by this measure that we can reach the Germans and other foreign immigrants that are pouring into the great Western Valley."

37. Auxiliary Societies. Book Funds.

In regard to Auxiliary Societies, the Report judiciously observes : "The Board of the Publication Society have been cautious about forming small Societies under the name of Auxiliaries, as was customary in our benevolent associations in former years. Very few such Societies have been efficient; and a large proportion that have been enrolled on Annual Reports have not lived to the second anniversary. *Our Churches, Associations, and State Conventions, (or, as called in the South and West, General Associations,) are permanent Societies for every good work.* These bodies are admirably adapted to carry out our plan of operations in their respective fields."

The New Hampshire State Convention, together with those in Michigan, North Carolina, Mississippi, and Illinois, are regular auxiliaries. So also in effect are the New England Sunday-School Union, the "Ohio Book and Tract Society," the Virginia Baptist Publication and

Sunday-School Society, and the Tennessee Baptist Publication Society. A Colporteur of the last named, Rev. A. Wedge, in six months, sold books to the amount of \$813.90; distributed books gratuitously to the cost of \$19.92, besides 10,500 pages of Tracts, visited fifty churches, five associations, ninety families, obtained 200 subscribers to the Tennessee Baptist, and \$106 on subscription for the Publication Cause.

The project, adopted by the Society at its last anniversary, has gone into effect in a number of Associations. Some of these bodies have raised funds, and conduct their own Colporteur operations through their itinerant missionaries. Others avail themselves of a temporary arrangement to obtain books on credit, by giving bond with security. It is hoped, before many years will pass away, each Association will have its own "Book Fund" and Colporteurs, so that every church and family may be supplied.

"The rigid economy we have been compelled to employ in laying a foundation for future and permanent success," the Report continues, "has much restricted our gratuities." A few very destitute Sunday-Schools, and thirty-four destitute ministers in the Western Valley, had received libraries. The means have been derived partly from special donations, and partly from Life Members relinquishing their claims for half their subscriptions in books to the benefit of poor ministers. Twenty new Life Memberships at \$20 each, and nine Life Directorships at \$50 each, have been received this year. When these are paid in installments, it must be understood by all, that no person is a Life Director or Life Member in form, or entitled to draw books, until the whole amount is paid. It ought to be understood, also, that when books are not drawn within a limited period, the amount is intended as a donation to the Society. The books drawn are to be the publications

of the Society, unless by special exception—as to furnish them some particular book of great utility; like the Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge.”

The stock of the Society is estimated at \$12,547.49. The gain the past year in stereotype plates and books is \$4,252.05. The legacies of the year amount to \$1,262.80.

38. Grateful Review.

This review of the year calls for devout thanksgiving, and may well inspire animation and hope. “The Society is second to no other agency in providing wholesome instruction to the numerous destitute churches, and the growing wants of the community. It is one of those institutions that, like the current of some of the mighty rivers of the West, is slow, noiseless, and onward; made up from a thousand mountain streams, bearing on its broad surface the commerce of a great country, fertilizing the region through which it passes, and sending off numerous channels to water and enrich the wide valley through which they flow. No other organized agency can perform its appropriate work. No other Society can reach our numerous churches, unprovided with pastors, with the living voice of the itinerant minister and the best products of the press so happily combined.”

39. Astounding Facts.

“Two astounding FACTS, bearing directly upon this subject, appear in the statistical tables of the denomination for 1843. These are, 1. The great deficiency in the means of

pastoral instruction—only 6,343 ministers, ordained and unordained, to 9000 churches. 2. These ministers are very unequally distributed. The deficiency in New England, New York, and the Middle States, is only about 100; in the Southern States, from Maryland to Florida, it is about 1000; and in the great Western Valley it amounts to about 1500—although the number of Baptist communicants is nearly the same in each of these three great divisions of our country.

"What shall be done? These destitute churches must be visited by Colporteurs, supplied with books and tracts; and the best substitute for the labors of the settled pastor must be adopted.

"The population in the Western Valley doubles every ten years. In 1790, there were but 108,568 in all that region. In 1845, not less than 8,900,000. Now Baptists constitute *one-fourth* part of the evangelical professors of religion in that district. Consequently they have one-fourth of the religious work to perform. When will our brethren learn to provide for their own spiritual household?

"But there is another view. There are dangers of no ordinary character, portentous to the character of our country, from which nothing but the Gospel of Christ, by its influence on the hearts and lives of the people, can save us. With all the bright hopes that gleam around us, it is quite possible, before another half century shall have been added to our national history, our fair land may be covered with the blood of her sons—our civil and religious liberties scattered to the four winds of heaven—the sceptre of a Caesar or a Napoleon may control its destinies—and our children's children stumble over and grope among the fallen and disjointed pillars that once sustained and adorned the temple of liberty. Human nature is exceedingly depraved, and subject perpetually to the most fearful delusion.

Proofs of this are seen on every page of history, and developed in every form of religious, political, and social fanaticism.

"Among the evils to which we as a nation are peculiarly exposed are the lust of gain—the love of excitement—lawlessness—superstition—skepticism, under the mask of philosophical liberalism, but filled with intense hatred to Bible Christianity. From these evils *physical means cannot save us*. We may construct canals and railroads, and increase the facilities of inter-communication—our commerce may whiten every sea—caloric may drive our machinery—the forked lightning may convey intelligence to every city of the land—science may open all the stores of nature, and yet the nation may sink with its own depravity. *Education cannot save us*. Colleges may be multiplied—schools for the intellect may exist in every hamlet—and literature may pour its treasures at our feet, and yet ruin overtake us if we are destitute of the moral principles taught nowhere else but in God's blessed book. The development of the resources of the country—the success, or the eventual triumph of any one political party—the increase of population—or the extension of territorial domain—cannot work out our emancipation from sin. And yet the means of our preservation and salvation are within our reach. They are to be found in the simple principles of the Gospel of Christ. The object is to be gained by the very simple measure of making the people of our country a *sober, thinking, reading, praying, and truly religious people*. It is quite possible to provide these means for the whole population of our country, and for all who may immigrate from foreign shores.

"To other means—to the education of the ministry, home missions, and Bible distribution, must be added the establishment of Sabbath-Schools and Bible Classes, and the publication and sending forth of religious books and

tracts. The PRESS must be employed to its utmost power, in counteracting its own terrible misdoings in sending forth such streams of demoralizing literature as now flow to the remotest districts of the land ; and in making an aggressive war on the worldliness, passion, lawlessness, superstition, false liberalism, heresies, and depravities of the age. In this age religious publications are as indispensable to the moral health and successful enterprise of a religious denomination as bread corn is to the comfortable support of a family.

40. Claims of the Society.

"The American Baptist Publication Society has claims of a most urgent character on the denomination. It has one paramount object, to make the members of our churches and all the people over whom our ministry have influence, intelligent, devout, liberal and benevolent Christians.—More than 1500 of our preachers in the Western Valley are exceedingly deficient in religious books. Many are quite destitute. At least 1000 of this class ought to be supplied by donations. Give these men books, and aid them by kind and mutual co-operation, and in a short time their usefulness would be more than doubled.

"All other sects are at work in this department of religious effort, each in a denominational way. Presbyterians, Methodists, Episcopalian, Romanists, Unitarians, Universalists—every sect, good or bad, are employing the press, and circulating books and tracts. Each has its class of periodicals. Our denomination too must put forth all its strength, and by mutual co-operation provide ample means of instruction for all within our reach."

On motion of T. C. Teasdale, of Conn., seconded by S.

S. Cutting, of Mass., the Annual Report of which we have here given a full abstract, was adopted and referred to the Board for publication. Among other impressive remarks, Mr. Teasdale said :

- "Sir, I cannot help feeling that the claims of the American Baptist Publication Society have not yet met a suitable response in the affections and prayers of our people. I have always believed that this Society was needed ; that it was accomplishing a useful work ; and that it could not be spared without essentially impairing the symmetry of the system of our benevolent operations. But, Sir, I confess that I have never comprehended, as of late, the inappreciable importance of this institution in the system of means for the diffusion of Gospel light, for the conversion of the world to God. It deserves greatly increased patronage at the hands of our people. I believe, Sir, that the time is not far distant when our slumbers on this subject will be ended ; the night of our indifference will have passed away ; and the morning of a glorious prosperity will have dawned upon this Society.

" How aptly, I have thought, might that beautiful apostrophe of one of our poets be addressed to each of the Colporteurs in the field :

'The good begun by thee shall onward flow
In many a branching stream, and wider grow ;
The seed that in these few and fleeting hours,
Thy hands unsparing and unwearied sow,
Shall deck thy grave with amaranthine flowers,
And yield thee fruit divine in heaven's immortal bowers !'

The following preamble and resolutions were offered by Mr. J. H. Campbell of Georgia, as the foundation of some remarks :

" Whereas, several Associations have already provided a *Book Fund* and facilities for Colporteur operations by

their itinerant ministers—and many others have commenced similar measures, therefore

"Resolved, That this Society has great confidence in this mode of associated action—that it is admirably suited to each section of our country—furnishes peculiar facilities to reach every class—is simple in its form—and can be made exceedingly effective in carrying out the purposes of this Society ”

Mr. Campbell spoke of the scriptural character, uniting tendency, simplicity and efficiency of the work, and Mr. Kincaid of its effects in Burmah.

On motion of J. M. Peck, accompanied with explanation,

"Resolved, That the project of employing itinerant ministers in the destitute parts of the Western Valley as Colporteurs and Missionaries, whenever specific donations are made for that object, at a salary each, not exceeding \$100 per annum, together with such percentage on sales of books as will sustain them and pay all contingent expenses, commends itself to the churches as combining efficiency, economy, and great usefulness.”

A vote of thanks to the American and Foreign Bible Society was passed, for a liberal donation of Bibles and Testaments, and a collection taken of \$31.86, besides fifty dollars for Life Memberships.

On report of the Committee, the amendments to the Constitution required to bring it in harmony with the Charter were then considered and adopted. See amended Constitution.

J. H. KENNARD was again elected *President*; W. W. KEEN, *Treasurer*; B. R. LOXLEY, *Assistant Treasurer*; J. M. PECK, *Corresponding Secretary*; and L. KNOWLES, Jr., *Recording Secretary*. Few changes were made in the new Board of Managers.

41. Important Principles of the Society.

In Appendix D. to the Report of this year, we find the following important *principles* announced, as having been settled by the Society :

DEPOSITORIES OF BOOKS.

"The American Baptist Publication Society *does not* establish Depositories for the sale of books in any part of the country. It would be ruinous to its interests by exhausting its resources, cause great loss and waste, and be wholly defective in supplying the people.

"In any city, town, county, state convention, association, or church, where the people want a Depository of books to retail to those who call, we expect *they* will raise the funds, procure the books, and superintend the business at their own expense and risk, and in their own way. We will furnish them with any or all our publications on the lowest terms. And when cash is advanced, will purchase from other publishers and obtain for them any books they need, which are in the market.

BOOKS NOT ON COMMISSION.

"Nor do we send out books to any individual, church, association, or society, for sale on commission ; the money to be returned at some indefinite period, and unsold books to be returned. This has been tried both by publishers and societies, and has proved a most ruinous and wasteful measure. The growth, efficiency, and success of our Publication Society depends, under God, on a system of rigid economy, vigilant supervision, and prudent management. All its objects may be gained, and the whole community, and especially all our churches, benefited by carrying out our projected system of operations.

OUR CREDIT SYSTEM.

"Brethren will please understand that every dollar's worth of books we send out on credit, even for a limited period, so far prevents the Managers from issuing a larger number, or a greater variety of new books.

"We now have more than \$6000 worth of books sent out on a limited credit, with bond and security, during the past year. If this was now in the treasury, the Board could issue immediately that amount in new books. But until more funds are obtained as capital, our issues and consequent means of doing good must be proportionably limited.

"These statements are made to show our brethren the great importance of getting into a system of *cash* operations as fast as possible. We earnestly hope and affectionately urge all the Associations to provide each a Book Fund; purchase their books in advance, and circulate them by means of their itinerant preachers. If our brethren who have the means only knew, as we do, how much such a measure would relieve and strengthen the Society, they would relinquish the *credit*, and adopt the *prompt pay* system. Our esteemed laboring Colporteurs we *must* furnish with books on a limited credit, with bond and security."

42. Twenty-Second Annual Meeting, 1846.

The Annual Meeting of 1846, being the *Twenty-Second* from the beginning as a Tract Society, was held with the Fifth Baptist Church, Sansom St., Philadelphia, Wednesday, April 29; the President, J. H. Kennard, in the chair.

The Treasurer's Report was read by B. R. Loxley. Receipts from all sources, \$22,726.96; including \$2,844 how-

ever, receiyed for other Societies, and transmitted to them; leaving the receipts for the Society's purposes properly \$19,883.65; expenditures, \$19,746.03. Balance in the Treasury, \$137.62.

The Report of the Board of Managers was read by J. M. Peck, Corresponding Secretary. It records the sudden death of one of the Vice Presidents, JOSEPH H. MARSHALL, of Tennessee, a devoted friend and liberal benefactor.

PUBLICATIONS.

The second and third volumes of the Complete Works of Andrew Fuller were issued during the year. They contain each more pages, and cost more therefore to stereotype and print them, than the first. The three volumes together include 2420 pages octavo, and are sold for \$7,50. "One of the most eminent living divines (not a Baptist), said that for theological learning he read Fuller before Edwards, and advised students to do so. The republication of his works in so inviting a form will bring them forth to the minds of the people, and favor their more general reading." Such is the testimony of the Boston Recorder.

43. Howell on Communion, and on the Deaconship.

Besides these noble volumes, the Society had stereotyped the "Terms of Sacramental Communion," by R. B. C. Howell, D.D.—a work already widely circulated at home, and republished with some additional matter-of-fact illustrations abroad. Also an original and valuable work by the same author on "The Deaconship," 154 pp., 18mo.

Other works published—"The Serpent Uneoiled; or, a Full-length Picture of Universalism, by a Western Layman;" "Scriptural Tales for the Young, by J. Belcher,

D.D.;" "Tales of Truth, by R. Babcock, D.D.;" and "Married Life, by J. Belcher, D.D." The Baptist Manual has been revised and reprinted. Also a second edition of "Carson on Baptism;" "Hinton on the Prophecies," and his "History of Baptism." have been obtained, and seventy pages of the latter already stereotyped. Of the Psalmist 5000 copies, and of the Baptist Catechism 3000, have been published. Also 500 copies of an "Indian Hymn Book," in the Tuscarora language, prepared by Rev. James Cusick of that tribe.

The books circulated during the year amount to \$50,000; in size, from the royal octavo of 1200 pages, down to the humble volume for Sabbath-Schools. Tracts reprinted, 18,987 copies; and 306,401 pages. New stereotype plates, 2656 pages, of which 1792 are large octavo, and 276 duodecimo. Of the Almanac, 1700 copies were circulated; 2000 of the Annual Report; 5000 extra copies of the Record, and 7,500 of a Circular Tract, for the purposes of the Society.

44. Quarterly Record.

The weekly issue of the "Baptist Record," with a list of 2,500 subscribers, ceased in January, 1846; and the Quarterly "Baptist Record" took its place, gratuitously issued as an organ of intercourse for the Society. The other Baptist periodicals mentioned last year are still circulated from our Depository.

AGENCY.

Three Agents were employed, J. B. Alcott in Western New York, H. H. Haff in Western Massachusetts, and S. Leach in Eastern Massachusetts, with good success. The Corresponding Secretary has also visited 13 States,

traveled 7,169 miles, preached 100 sermons, and delivered 45 public addresses in 171 days. He has been sent by the Board, "to each extreme of the country, not to direct public opinion, but to give fully and frankly information of our mode of operation, and leave brethren in each section to adjust their modes of action in their own way. If the churches and people are provided with sound doctrine, and correct views of Christian character and duty through the Press, and the churches advance in holy living and intelligence, our end is gained."

COLPORTEURS.—NEW VIEWS.

The Report here enters upon a renewed exposition of all that is peculiar in the plan and modes of operations employed by the Society, seeking year by year to explain and impress all the distinguishing features of the system, as heretofore stated, upon the public mind. We quote only those parts which afford new light on the two classes of Colporteurs :

"On any system devised, the transportation and circulation of books among the people, adds not less than *twenty-five* per cent. to their original cost. Would it alter the case in any respect, should we put the retail price of our books *one-fourth* less, and then call on the churches for contributions to pay the expense of their circulation ? *We prefer* (and we are confident a very large majority of the denomination prefer), *that the expenses of Colportage should come from the sales of the books, and not from the people under the name of charitable donations.*" It is far preferable to give away books to needy ministers for libraries, or to feeble Sabbath-Schools, or to the poor and destitute in the new settlements, who would thankfully receive such gifts and profit by them, than to give a few cents to each purchaser in the reduced price of his books. This is a vital principle in our scheme of operations ; it

works well, and only needs to be understood to command general approbation. It is eminently adapted to the condition of the *Baptist churches* in two-thirds of the United States, where a large proportion of our ministers are itinerant preachers for a greater or less portion of their time, as circumstances admit. We are not advocating the policy, but simply stating the facts. Thirty-five years by-gone, and a large majority of the Baptist ministers in New England and in the State of New York, preached the Gospel under these circumstances, as a large majority now do throughout the Southern and Western States. It is this class of men that have broken up the fallow ground, and sown the seed of the word broad-cast over the prairies and through the forests of the Western Valley. Under their ministrations revivals have been enjoyed, converts baptized, churches formed, and the rough places made plain. These men make the best description of Colporteurs.

"Our churches, and ministers, and Sabbath-Schools, and whole people, must have books; and the circulation of these books should be connected with the personal labors of the itinerant minister. He must be qualified to preach and administer ordinances, and set things in order in the destitute churches, and carry with him the influence and moral power of a preaching missionary. Why should *Baptists* employ laymen (however pious and estimable) when they have so many worthy and good men in the ministry, whose usefulness would be much increased, were they constantly devoted to the two-fold work of circulating religious books and preaching the Gospel to the destitute? These ministers, in most cases, can be found in the field where their labors are needed.

"There is nothing visionary, romantic, or of doubtful expediency in this policy. It is a plain matter-of-fact business, easily carried out in one, a hundred, or a thousand

instances. With a ministry thus circumstanced, and living where Colporteur labors are more especially needed :—a ministry now compelled to employ two-thirds or three-fourths of their time in secular pursuits ; with the means of conveyance in their own possession ; habituated to spend much time in the work of the Lord absent from their families ; and whose services would be far more abundant with such aid as the system of our Society affords, surely Baptists need not employ laymen, and pay their expenses to distant fields, and neglect the more economical and efficient mode here urged.

45. Colporteur Missionaries.

"But there are vast fields of destitution in our country, and especially in the Great Western Valley, where a modification of the system is required. This is the second point of view proposed. The great principle of action still is to employ our own ministers, but on a small salary, in addition to the percentage on sales. In our last Report, the proposal was submitted to sustain a Colporteur Missionary for one year, in some destitute field, for each donation of \$100 specially given for that purpose.—We have not the least objection, if the churches and brethren will it, that these men should receive the same compensation as another Society pays laymen—besides furnishing their outfit, traveling and transportation expenses. But for the present we can find men to labor on the terms proposed. There is an exception to be made in the case of German missionaries, who have not the same facilities for selling books to their own people.—But no man is employed on mere pledges. The money for his salary must be in the Treasury before the appointment is made. From forty

to sixty days are then required before he can get his books, and go to work.

"Each Colporteur Missionary is instructed to report specifically his labors *monthly*; and when desired, he will write quarterly to the church, company, or individual that contributes his salary. Those who give to this fund, have the right to say in what State, or particular field they would have it applied, and their wishes consulted as to the particular man they prefer."

The Report then gives an interesting sketch, with extracts from the reports of this latter class of Colporteur missionaries, to show the efficiency of this scheme of operation. *Ten* had been employed during the year. A. B. Harris, A. B. Roundtree, D. R. Murphy, W. H. Briggs, T. M. Vance, E. J. Robinson, C. H. Bootright, R. Cheadle, R. W. Waterman, and D. Rothen. The last named is a German. His appointment opens a new sphere of labor and responsibility to the Board.

"No specific returns of labor performed are received at our rooms from that numerous class of missionaries employed by Associations, State Conventions, and Auxiliary Publication Societies; or of those who labor without special commissions. Those under commission report their labors to the Societies they serve. These are chiefly sustained by perquisites on sales.

"The Board have deemed it their duty to prosecute this branch of their labors (Colportage) with due caution. They are projecting *an enterprise of immeasurable importance to our denomination and the whole country*; bringing into a sphere of usefulness and efficiency a class of ministers who hitherto have been much embarrassed from providential circumstances; and they desire to have those churches and brethren to whom they look for counsel and aid, to become convinced of the wisdom of their measures, not by artificial and temporary modes of excite-

ment, but by the reiteration of facts and the result of experiment."

GERMAN POPULATION.

In consequence of the appointment of Mr. David Rothen to labor in this new field, the Report enters into some details as to its extent and leading features.

"The emigrants from Germany into the United States within the last twenty years, with their children born in this country, who speak the same language, exceed 1,500,000. From various sources of information, and principally from Germans themselves, we learn that in a *religious* point of view they are about equally divided into three classes. One-third are Romanists, one-third are Lutherans, and one-third irreligious, if not directly infidel in their views. Lutheranism in Germany has degenerated into formalism and superstition, as every *state religion* will in time. The mischievous dogma of *baptismal regeneration* lies at the foundation. The Roman Catholic Germans are more liberal and accessible to Gospel truth than other Catholics. Many have been already converted, chiefly through the labors of Methodist missionaries. Colporteurs of the American Tract Society have done great good by the circulation of books and tracts in German. God has providentially now thrown on our hands a German brother, well qualified to labor among this class of our population."

The following letter from Rev. J. L. Moore, Secretary of the Ohio State Convention, dated July 21, 1845, gives the history of the case.

"We have a German brother, David Rothen, now residing in Putnam county, Ohio, who has recently united with the Baptist Church. He is a licentiate, of strong mind, substantial piety, and exhibits a good degree of energy and zeal in the cause of truth. Since he has become a Baptist, he discovers the first and great error of

his German brethren, is in reference to *baptismal regeneration* and infant church membership. He would be glad of some arrangement by which he could labor for their spiritual good untrammelled, and circulate Tracts.

"Has the American Baptist Publication Society any German books or German tracts? What can the Society do towards sustaining an efficient laborer, partly as a missionary and partly as a Colporteur, among the German population of Ohio (amounting to 300,000 souls)? The subject has been before the Board of our State Convention, and we feel prepared to do something, but our resources will not justify us in giving a missionary a full support.

"If Bro. R., whose education is good, should prepare two or three Tracts, which should be approved as valuable, could the Society publish them in the German language? And if so, could they sustain him as a laborer? He is a poor man, and \$150 per annum would be a small support."

Mr. Moore adds in a letter received Nov. 16th, that the Convention had voted to add \$50, in case of Bro. Rothen's appointment, making his salary \$200. "The Board had good written recommendations before them, when the above resolution was passed."

On receiving his commission from our Society, Bro. Rothen wrote: "I thank the Board for their confidence in me, and I pray to our common Master, that I may be, though humble and weak, a successful laborer for this great and glorious cause.—*It is highly important that I should have some denominational works in German to circulate.*" The Board purchased a temporary supply of German books from the American Tract Society. But there is now no other alternative but to have a supply of tracts and books in the German language published by our Society. We need Pengilly's Scripture Guide to Baptism, already translated by Mr. Oncken for circulation in Germany, with other Tracts suited to lead inquirers from the destructive

errors that cluster around and spring from that monstrous and soul-destroying error, the dogma of baptismal regeneration, in its mystical efficacy in the removal of original sin in the unconscious infant, or conscious but unconverted adult, and the saving virtue of the ‘Holy Eucharist,’ and other religious rites.

“The simplicity, spirituality, and scriptural views of the regular Baptists in Gospel doctrine and ordinances, are admirably adapted to guide the inquiring German to the Cross of Christ.”

AUXILIARIES AND CO-OPERATION

Efficient Auxiliaries are reported this year from North Carolina, Virginia, Mississippi, Tennessee, New Hampshire, Missouri, Illinois, and Ohio State organizations. Votes of co-operation also were passed in the State Conventions of Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Alabama, Kentucky, Indiana, Michigan, and Iowa; besides the resolutions of over thirty Associations in different States, cited in the Annual Report of the Society.

GRATUITIES.

Nineteen Ministers’ Libraries and three Sunday-School Libraries were gratuitously distributed the last year; each of the value of \$10. Within the last three years the total number of these libraries is 56. They have drawn forth from the receivers many expressions of gratitude. In addition to the libraries, the grants of books and tracts for the year amount to \$232.10.

LIFE MEMBERS AND MANAGERS.

Seventy-five Life Members, and five Life Managers were added this year.

PROPERTY OF THE SOCIETY.

The valuation of stereotype plates and stock amounts to \$16,918.09; of which the new plates cast this year cost \$5,114.94. The gain to the Society during the year is \$4,176.60. The legacies received, amount to \$310.41. Others expected in a short time amount to \$2,505.34.

THE FOREIGN FIELD.

Pressing calls are coming from the Foreign Mission field for aid in publishing Books and Tracts—particularly of that class which comes within the appropriate sphere of no Society but this. We are required, as a denomination, to give every portion of truth and exhibit every law of the Saviour to converts from Heathenism, Judaism, Romanism, Lutheranism, or any other corrupted form of Christianity. It is to this Society, therefore, our Missionaries look for aid in publishing those works that contain any of the distinctive truths held by the Baptists.

From Germany, Bro. Oncken has applied for \$90 to enable him to stereotype his translation of Pengilly—the first edition of which has been some time exhausted, and a second loudly called for. It is a work eminently adapted to the German population, both of Europe and America, as it effectually destroys the fundamental error of baptismal regeneration, so generally prevalent among them, and to which they cling, as did the Jews to circumcision, to the ruin of the soul. Already \$70 of the \$90 required, is received. Besides this, Bro. Oncken asks for \$100 to circulate Tracts in Holland. He says: "The glorious work in which I and many other dear brethren are engaged in Germany, Denmark, and of late in Holland, is so much extending, and the opportunities for spreading the blessed Gospel and restoring the ancient landmarks of the Church of Christ, are so much multiplied, that I must once more come before

the Managers of your Society as an humble beggar, praying for some support in our great emergency. Then after speaking of Pengilly in German, as noticed above, he adds :

"As the Lord has opened, I trust, a wide door for us in Holland, and given us, in brother Feisser, formerly minister in the Dutch Reformed Church, a dear and competent fellow-laborer, we are most desirous to have one or two denominational Tracts out in Dutch, as early as possible. For the present, \$100 would suffice." Then after speaking of the usefulness of Tracts, he continued :

"The Lord is evidently preparing the way for a great and glorious work, and it is for us to be at our post, for it is by the preaching of the Cross that the purposes of his love are to be accomplished. We crave your prayers."

An application for \$300 for similar purposes has come from France. The Rev. J. B. Cretin, of the French Mission, has prepared a "History of Baptism" in French, which it is the wish of the Mission to have published, together with some denominational Tracts.

From China, Dr. Maegowan, missionary at Ningpo, applies for an appropriation to publish a "Manual for Church Members," to be prepared by Bro. Goddard. He thus warmly speaks of our Society :

"The institution with whose interests you are now particularly identified, lies very near my heart. I was present at its reorganization at New York, and have watched its course with much interest, sympathizing with it in its struggles, and rejoicing in its success. And now, though as far removed from its centre of operations as I well can be, I am no less concerned for its prosperity—for whatever system of operations becomes useful in elevating the piety and improving the knowledge of American Baptists, must as a consequence quickly tell upon the spiritual state of their Foreign Missions. While it is a matter of deep

regret that an institution of so much importance to the best interests of the denomination, should still be so limited in its resources, and so imperfectly appreciated, I trust that so far from causing its friends to be discouraged, it will only stimulate them to renewed efforts in its behalf."

In reference to the proposed "Manual for Church Members," Dr. Macgowan says: "Nearly all the principal sects of Christendom are represented in China, and nowhere will new converts require more doctrinal instruction than here."

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

The Corresponding Secretary, Rev. J. M. PECK, gave notice in the summer that he intended to resign at the close of the year, and recommended Rev. THOMAS S. MALCOM, of Louisville, Ky., as his successor. The reasons assigned by Bro. Peck for his resignation, were the encouraging prospects of the Society on the one hand, and his own age, distance, and absence from his family.

"In September, accordingly, his resignation was accepted, and Bro. Malcom chosen to take his place at the next Anniversary. After much deliberation, Bro. Malcom accepted the appointment. The Corresponding Secretary, therefore, after three years official relation, retires from his post, with unabated attachment to the Society and the Board, and "with the assurance that Providence has pointed out a successor in the vigor of early manhood, with the talents, zeal, and industry peculiarly desirable in carrying forward this enterprise, and whose services have been anxiously sought for by the Managers of a kindred Society."

CONCLUSION.

The sketch given in this Report of our Colporteur department and its peculiar features, illustrates and proves the importance of every department of our operations *as a complete system.*

"We cannot sustain Colporteurs, either in whole or in part, unless we have sufficient capital invested in books, and these in sufficient quantities, and of great variety. Copyrights, stereotyping, printing, and binding, cost the Society the same as they do any other publisher. The Society never has owned a printing-office. The Board of Managers hire their work done by the job, at stated prices, and on the same terms as the same kind of work and materials cost any of the large publishing houses in this city. Hence the Board cannot go into the market, buy books, and furnish Colporteurs at the customary discount prices of our publications. No Publication Society does this. There is a class of books which are published by others, and which we must have, and are obliged to purchase on the best terms we can, or which we obtain by special exchange for our publications. Hence every additional volume we add to our stock, increases in that degree our facilities for sustaining Colporteurs.

"But even when furnished with books, the Colporteur cannot be sustained unless he can sell the books at such prices as will yield a percentage of at least one-fourth our cost. Every Baptist who buys a book of the Society, or its Colporteur, should keep in mind that he pays a trifle to get that book from Philadelphia to his door, or to carry books and sustain missionaries amongst the destitute. Our books are sold lower than books of equal quality usually are by the best publishing houses, and the retail price of each book at the Depository is established by a uniform rule:

"In closing this Report the Board desire to give thanks for the success that has attended their labors, and they earnestly solicit for the American Baptist Publication Society the fervent prayers and liberal contributions of those who love our Lord Jesus Christ, and desire the advancement of his kingdom."

46. Resolutions. Resignation of Rev. J. M. Peck.

The motion to adopt and publish the Annual Report, was sustained by addresses from Rev. G. J. Miles, G. B. Ide, J. M. Challiss, and F. Ketchum, and unanimously carried.

A special meeting was appointed in Brooklyn, Monday, May 18.

Resolutions in favor of the Colporteur Missionary system of aid for the Foreign Field, and of the union of the living teacher and the Press as the safeguard from pernicious error, and diffuser of Gospel truth, were offered by Rev. J. M. Peck, J. Dowling, and Thomas S. Malcom. They were sustained by appropriate addresses, and unanimously passed.

It was also "*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Society are most heartily tendered to our beloved brother PECK, for his important and indefatigable services rendered in behalf of this Society; the effects of which are seen in the augmentation of its capital over \$9000 during his term of official connection with it; and felt in its Colporteur and other agencies put in successful operation during that period of time."

47. The Ten Thousand Dollar Fund, for Gratuities.

But the most important measure was the following, offered by Thomas Wattson, Esq., from the Committee on Finance, which he not only earnestly advocated, but pledged himself for one-twentieth of the sum proposed :

"*Resolved*, That an effort be made to raise by subscription a Special Fund of \$10,000 for the use of this Society; the interest of which shall be appropriated exclusively to the *gratuitous* distribution of its books and tracts among

the destitute, at the discretion of the Board of Managers ; and that the said subscriptions be made payable in four equal quarterly installments, commencing when the whole amount is subscribed."

Pledges were given from five individuals to the amount of \$2000.

48. Special Meeting at Brooklyn.

At the Special Meeting in May, held with the First Baptist Church in Brooklyn, N. Y., a preliminary meeting was held in the afternoon, May 18, at which interesting statements were made by the new Corresponding Secretary, T. S. Malcom, followed by addresses from J. B. Olcott, J. Peck, and B. M. Hill, Corresponding Secretary of the American Baptist Home Mission Society.—Mr. Hill said, that his connection with Home Missions had caused him to feel the value and importance of the Publication Society. The missionaries were continually invoking his good offices in the way of procuring grants. He was certain he had letters on file, which, if read, would affect brethren to tears. He concluded by saying that he regarded the Society as "*the right arm of Home Missions.*"

At the evening session, resolutions were offered, and addresses made by Rev. J. Taylor Jones, missionary from Siam, E. L. Magoon, of Richmond, Va., J. Booth of Michigan, L. Tucker, of Buffalo ; also by T. Wattson, and Wm. Bucknell, of Philadelphia, who presented and pressed the Ten Thousand Dollar Fund. They were warmly sustained by Rev. Alfred Bennet, of New York.

"The following resolution was presented by Rev. S. B. Swaim, of Worcester, Mass., and was unanimously adopted :

"*Resolved*, That the pastors of churches be requested to present the claims of this Society once during the year."

On motion of Rev. A. H. Stowell, of Vermont, it was,

"*Resolved*, That the American Baptist Publication Society is of equal importance, in its place, with the Foreign, the Home Mission, and the Bible Societies, in the renovation of our land; and that it is eminently deserving of a better support than it has hitherto received."

On motion of Rev. Levi Tucker, of Buffalo, it was,

"*Resolved*, That the *Colporteur* System of this Society commends itself to our churches for its economy, adaptation to the circumstances of many Baptist ministers, its facilities for providing valuable instruction to destitute churches, and its effect on the ministers who engage in it."

On motion of Rev. J. Taylor Jones, missionary from Siam, it was,

"*Resolved*, That the calls for aid from the FOREIGN FIELD upon the treasury of the American Baptist Publication Society, should be responded to by our brethren in liberal contributions for this specific object."

On motion of Rev. John Dowling, of New York, it was unanimously,

"*Resolved*, That in the publication of the valuable works of standard Baptist literature, the Board of the Society are performing a work of vast importance to the prosperity and growth of our denomination, and one which deserves the sincere gratitude, and should claim the liberal co-operation of every American Baptist."

49. Defect of Materials.

At this point of time, the light of the published Annual Report fails for six years; none being published in separate form for that period; although with the exception of Col-

porteur Statistics, they were annually prepared and presented. The main facts were published in the Quarterly Baptist Record, and condensed in the Baptist Almanac of each year. From these sources we shall draw them, and arrange them in this historical document.

50. Twenty-Third Annual Meeting, 1847.

The Annual Meeting in 1847, (the Twenty-Third Anniversary) was held with the Eleventh Baptist Church, Philadelphia, Wednesday, April 28; the President, J. H. Kennard, in the chair. A half hour was devoted to special prayer for the Divine blessing, with brethren G. B. Ide, G. S. Webb, and J. B. Olcott.

From the Treasurer's Report it appeared that the receipts for the year ending April 15, 1847, were \$24,277, a larger sum than in any previous year. This includes \$2,116, received for other benevolent societies, and paid over to them, as usual. Thirty-six Life Members and four Life Managers were added to the Society. Legacies, \$2,367.

A document was read by B. R. Loxley, Assistant Treasurer, showing two important facts—first, that loans to the amount of \$3,300, mostly made the preceding year, had been paid off; and secondly, that the sales, amounting to \$13,320.50, had paid all the expenses of every description for the year, leaving a balance in favor of the Society. Hence, all the contributions for Colporteur Fund, Ministers' Libraries, Ten Thousand Dollar Plan, for German Tracts, &c., were left perfectly whole.

51. Annual Report of the Board.

The Annual Report was read by the Corresponding Secretary, Rev. THOMAS S. MALCOM. Several books begun last year had been stereotyped, viz.: Hinton's History of Baptism, Howell's Communion, and Married Life by Dr. Belcher. New editions were printed of The Psalmist, Bunyan's Holy War, Booth's Reign of Grace, Pengilly and Jewett on Baptism, &c., &c. The first edition of Howell on the Deaconship, 1000 copies, was sold in six months, and highly approved. A new work, by Rev. S. W. Lynd, on "Sacrifice and Atonement," was issued. Of the Almanac 10,000 copies were printed; 5000 of the Annual Report for 1846; and 17,500 copies of the Quarterly Baptist Record. Two new Tracts were added, (one in German,) and the total number of pages of Tracts printed was double that of the preceding year, being about 613,000. The Society now had of its own publications 51 volumes, and 181 Tracts.

The number of Libraries granted to Sabbath-schools, and for Ministers, had exhausted the "Valley Fund," and many applications could not be answered for lack of means.

The \$10,000 Plan met with favor, and \$5000 of it had been subscribed.

The Building Fund reached \$1,659.97, paid in, and on interest. It is secured by mortgage on the stereotype plates, whose value is now \$7,826.61. The value of stock in books and tracts (at one-third discount from the regular prices) is \$7,962.72. Total assets, \$15,789.33, without any liabilities abroad.

BOOKS CIRCULATED. FULLER'S WORKS.

About 50,000 bound volumes were put in circulation during the year, including 700 of Fuller's works in large

octavo volumes. These alone contain nearly 2,000,000 of pages. These works have everywhere been received with great favor, among all evangelical denominations. The beautiful style of our edition has also received high commendation. The venerable Dr. Alexander, of Princeton, has said in a recent article in the Biblical Repository, "Perhaps no theological writer of modern times, would have more of those who are now termed Calvinists agreeing with him. And for ourselves, we greatly prefer the theology of Andrew Fuller to that of Crisp and Gill, and feel truly gratified to think that his views appear to be so generally embraced by the ministers of his own denomination. We have made up our mind never to contend with any man for agreeing in doctrinal points with Andrew Fuller; and it is in the hope of increasing the number of those who shall read his works, that we have been induced to write this review." Such testimony from a Professor of Theology who taught more than 1500 theological students, spread over the Presbyterian denomination in the United States and in heathen lands, is invaluable. We will add that of another distinguished man, whose influence is not surpassed by that of any man amongst the Congregationalist and Western Presbyterian churches—Dr. Lyman Beecher. He says, "A better service for the truth, to the present day, can scarcely be done, than by the extensive circulation of the works of Andrew Fuller." Similar testimony has been borne by the London Eclectic Review, the Christian Review, and the Western Baptist Review, besides innumerable other periodicals—including even the Richmond Christian Advocate, Methodist, which however excepts his Calvinism.

To Rev. J. G. Oncken the sum of \$100 was forwarded for the circulation of tracts in Holland, and also the sum necessary for stereotyping Pengilly's Scripture Guide in German, and providing us a set of duplicate plates.

AGENCIES.

J. B. Olcott and H. H. Haff have labored in New England and New York, and A. H. Stowell was recently appointed for Vermont, for a short time. The Corresponding Secretary has attended public meetings and visited churches in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia and Virginia. He has secured \$2,500 on the \$10,000 Fund. But the Board have avoided all unnecessary expenses in this department.

COLPORTAGE.

Here there has been much enlargement. About 20 Missionary Colporteurs are now laboring for the Society in eleven different States of the Union, with the most encouraging results. The printed page has been accompanied with earnest appeals and fervent prayer, and precious souls have been won to Christ. Two of our Colporteurs are Germans, one of whom had been a Roman Catholic.

The Report closes with an appeal for aid, particularly from the female members of our churches. It was accepted for publication.

52. Resolutions.

Rev. Conrad A. Fleischman, of the German Baptist Church, Philadelphia, offered and advocated the following resolution :

"Resolved, That the vastly increasing population of Germans in America claims now the attention and activity of the American Baptists, and especially of this Society, to give them the Word of Truth as they have received it from the Lord."

On motion of Rev. J. B. Olcott, of Parma, N. Y., sustained by him :

"Resolved, That the cheering results of the Society's Colporteurs, the past year, furnish increased evidence of the adaptation of this Society to reach and benefit destitute and neglected portions of our country, and encourage greatly increased exertions in carrying forward this important enterprise."

On motion of Thomas Wattson, Esq., seconded by Rev. B. R. Loxley,

"Resolved, That increased exertions should be made to obtain the balance of the \$10,000 Fund, that this most desirable object may be fully accomplished."

On motion of Rev. Eugenio Kincaid, of the Burman Mission,

"Resolved, That the calls for aid from the foreign field upon the treasury of the A. B. Publication Society, should be responded to by our brethren in liberal contributions for that specific object."

On motion of Rev. Luke Davis, of Morrisville, N. Y.,

"Resolved, That the plan of making donations of small libraries to destitute ministers, commends itself to our sympathies, and calls for our cheerful co-operation."

The addresses of brethren Fleischman, Davis, Olcott and Kincaid, were published in the Baptist Record for May, 1847. The first form only of the Annual Report, (owing to the absence of the Corresponding Secretary,) was printed. The Addresses appear there also, though the Report was not published.

The officers for the new year were Rev. J. H. KENNARD, President; Rev. THOMAS H. MALCOM, Corresponding Secretary; Rev. B. R. LOXLEY, Depository Agent and Assistant Treasurer; C. A. WILSON, Recording Secretary; and W. W. KEEN, Treasurer. The Board of Managers was but slightly changed.

53. Prospects.

This Anniversary was one of great interest. "With an increasing band of Colporteurs, increasing sympathy, and enlarged donations on the part of the churches, and with many tokens of the Divine blessing, another year was commenced with feelings of gratitude, for the past and of hope for the future."

54. Twenty-Fourth Annual Meeting, 1848.

The Annual Meeting of 1848, (called the Ninth,) was held with the Tenth Baptist Church, Philadelphia, Wednesday, April 26th, the President, J. H. Kennard, in the Chair.

The Treasurer's Report showed a falling off in the receipts of over \$3,000, being \$20,927 22; of which \$13,360, were from book sales. New Life Members, 29, and 1 Life Manager.

55. Annual Report.

The Annual Report of the Board was read by the Corresponding Secretary, THOMAS S. MALCOM. It showed an increase in the number of books put in circulation, it being 60,000; or 10,000 more than any preceding year. Among the new publications were, Baptisms of the New Testament, Morning Thoughts, Memoir of Micajeh E. Way, Remington's Reasons for becoming a Baptist, and The Psalmist with Supplement. New editions were issued of Carson,

Howell, Fuller, Bunyan's Pilgrim, Baptist Manual, &c. A new Tract was published, Judson's Letters to Females on Costly and Ornamental Attire. New stereotype plates added, 1,400 pages. Of the Baptist Almanac, 8,000 copies were printed.

In ten States, 18 Colporteurs have been employed by the Society, and their labors have been signally blessed. Three were Germans, one in New York, one in Pennsylvania, and one in Ohio.

Small gratuitous libraries had been sent to 12 Ministers and 10 Sunday-schools. The grants of books and tracts amount to about \$500. The sum of \$100 had been remitted to Bro. Oncken, of Hamburgh, to publish tracts in Hungary. Grants of books and tracts have been made for Canada, Indian Territory, Oregon, West Indies, France, Africa, Assam, Burmah, and China.

Of the \$10,000 Fund, \$8,439 had been pledged. The remainder must be made up by the 1st of July of the current year, or the subscriptions are not binding.

The Building Fund amounted to \$1,550 60. Stock, \$7,394. Stereotype plates, \$8,675. Total, \$16,070. The library is steadily increasing. Number of publications 238, of which 56 are bound volumes.

56. Resolutions.

On motion of Rev. F. Wilson, of Baltimore, sustained by an address,

"Resolved, That the publications of this Society furnish a powerful auxiliary to the minister of the Cross, in promoting not only the conversion of sinners, but the progress of Divine truth, and of a manly, intelligent, and scriptural piety in our own churches; and therefore claim the most

energetic personal effort of every Baptist, for more extensive circulation."

On motion of Rev. J. B. Olcott, of Parma, N. Y., sustained by an address,

"Resolved, That in view of the present state of the world, and our inability to provide for its spiritual wants by the ordinary labors of the ministry, we see the sternest necessity of immediate measures for the *extensive employment of the press*, and the Colporteur system, for imparting the knowledge of salvation to our fellow men."

The sum of \$8000 having been conditionally pledged to carry out the \$10,000 Plan, it was, on motion of T. Watson,

"Resolved, That vigorous efforts should be made to obtain the balancee, that the full amount may be raised by the first of July."

In view of the *necessary* destitution of many Baptist ministers in the West, it was moved by Rev. J. E. Welch, of N. J., and

"Resolved, That it is the duty and the privilege of the American Baptist Publication Society and its friends, to assist them in procuring such books as will enable them to present the truths of the Gospel more fully and successfully to the people."

57. Pengilly in French.

A collection was then taken. Several Libraries for poor ministers were pledged. In answer to an appeal of the Corresponding Secretary for funds to publish "Pengilly" and other works in French, not only for circulation in France, but by the Grand Ligne Mission in Canada, a liberal amount was subscribed for these objects.

An abstract of the addresses is found in the Baptist Record for May, 1848.

The officers of the last year were re-elected.

58. Twenty-Fifth Annual Meeting.

The Annual Meeting of 1849 was held with the First Baptist Church, Philadelphia, Wednesday, April 25th: the President, J. H. Kennard, in the chair.

The Treasurer's Report showed an increase of near \$5000 in the income of the Society. Receipts \$25,416,38. Forty-two Life Members and four Life Managers had been added.

59. Annual Report of the Board.

The Annual Report of the Board was read by the Corresponding Secretary, T. S. MALCOM. It showed that more than 60 volumes had been put in circulation during the year. Fifteen new publications were issued; 1 in German, 4 in French, and 10 in English. In German, Pengilly's "Scripture Guide," in French, Pengilly, Wilson's Manual, Remington's Reasons, and "Errors of the Church of Rome;" in English, "Closing Scenes," "The Baptist Harp," a new collection of Hymns for the closet, the family, social meetings, and revivals, &c., &c. New editions of Fuller's works, "Howell on Communion," "Pilgrim's Progress," "The Psalmist," &c. Also the Baptist Almanac for 1849. Stereotype plates added, 1300 pages. Value of stock in Books, &c., \$9,741; in stereotype plates, \$8,977. Total, \$18,719.

Of 18 Colporteurs laboring in 10 States, 5 are German.

Grants of 11 Ministers' Libraries and 12 Sunday-school Libraries were bestowed during the year, making 103 within five years. Grants of books and tracts were made to Canada, France, Africa, China, Burmah, West Indies, Indian Territory, Oregon, and California. Also, \$100 to brother Oucken for Tracts in Germany.

The Ten Thousand Dollar Subscription was completed during the year. As fast as paid in, the interest was appropriated in gratuities. When fully paid, the sum of \$600 annually will be at the disposal of the Board for gratuitous distributions.

The Building Fund is yet but \$1,659,07, the interest of which in part defrays the rent. The Library contains 1032 volumes. The catalogue of the Society embraces 260 publications, of which 68 are bound volumes. Of the Tracts, 175 are English, 5 German, 3 French, besides 9 Children's Tracts in 18mo.

The Report was adopted, and referred to the Board for publication ; but, owing to the manifold engagements of the Corresponding Secretary, was never published, not even in the Quarterly Record. The above facts are taken mainly from the Baptist Almanac. The account of the proceedings of the Annual Meetings which follow, is taken from a fragment of the first form printed, but never published.

60. Resolutions.

Rev. S. Remington, of New York, offered the following resolution, which was sustained by an interesting address, and passed.

"As the diffusion of Divine Knowledge is the grand

instrumentality ordained by God, by which to convert sinners to himself, therefore,

"Resolved, That the American Baptist Publication Society has high claims upon the sympathy, and ought to share largely in the vigorous support of the denomination."

On motion of Rev. Thomas Smith, of Kentucky, sustained by an address,

"Resolved, That the publications of this Society present an important auxiliary to the ministry of our denomination."

The following preamble and resolutions, offered by T. Wattson, Esq., discloses an important fact in the history of the Society :

"Whereas, the building now occupied by the Society must be given up before the next Anniversary, therefore

"Resolved, That the permanent location of the Depository is a matter of increasing importance to the successful prosecution of the operations of the Society.

"Resolved, That the Board of Managers be requested to procure a suitable place, and to take measures to increase the Building Fund now belonging to the Society."

These resolutions were sustained by an address from the mover, and unanimously passed ; after which a collection was taken for the object.

The Officers of the preceding year were re-elected.

61. Twenty-Sixth Annual Meeting—1850.

The Annual Meeting of 1850, (the *Twenty-Sixth* from the beginning, and the *Tenth* from the re-organization in 1840 under the present name,) was held with the Eleventh Baptist Church, Philadelphia, on Wednesday, May 1st ; the President, J. H. Kennard, in the chair.

The services of a phonographic reporter were, by a vote of the Society, secured for the evening addresses.

The Treasurer's Report, though nominally less, showed a real gain in the amount received for the appropriate purposes of the Society, over any former year. This was \$23,925 85. For other societies, \$896 84; making a total of \$24,822 69. Stock in books, &c., \$10,567 81. Stereotype plates, 11,802 pages, wood-cuts, &c., not including copyrights, \$9,647 54. Total, \$20,215 35. Being an increase of \$1,496 13, notwithstanding a recent reduction of twenty per cent. in the price of our books. Thirty Life Members and Twelve Life Managers have been added. Library, 1100 vols.

62. Annual Report of the Board.

The Annual Report of the Board was read by the Corresponding Secretary, THOMAS S. MALCOM. It was marked by a striking increase in the work of publication—*eighteen new* publications having been printed or stereotyped in the course of the year. These were The Baptist Harp, (large edition); Francis Egerton; Frey's Messiahship of Jesus, and his Scripture Types; Baxter's Call, and his Saints' Rest; Alleine's Alarm; Pike's Guide to Young Disciples; Effie Maurice; John Frink; James and George; A Pedobaptist Church no Home for a Baptist; Scriptural and Historical Arguments for Infant Baptism Examined; Covenant of Circumcision; New Testament and Historical Arguments for Infant Baptism Examined, by J. Torry Smith. Tracts—in German, Fuller's. Great Question Answered; The Bible and the Sinner; What it is to Believe in Christ; in English—A Solemn Question to One who has a Hope in Jesus. The *new* publications average 170 pp., and

embrace in all 3,059 pages added to our Catalogue. New editions of Carson, Howell on the Deaconship, Baptist Manual, Holy War, Reign of Grace, The Psalmist, Penglilly, Remington, &c., were issued, besides new editions of forty-five Tracts.

Twenty-one Colporteur Missionaries were employed in 11 States and Territories, seven of whom were Germans. The salaries of those paid, have been raised from \$100 to \$150,—an important but necessary step. Their labors have been greatly blessed. Converts have been multiplied, and many buried with Christ in Baptism.

Libraries, of the average value of \$10, have been given to twenty-three ministers and sixteen Sunday-schools; making one hundred and forty in six years. In the Foreign Field grants have been made to China, Burmah, Assam, Africa, France, Germany, Jamaica, Hayti, and Canada, besides a remittance in money to France to aid in establishing Sabbath-schools.

The \$10,000 Fund is nearly all paid in. On the 1st of March, 1849, the sum of \$5000 commenced bearing interest, and on the 1st of March 1850, \$4,300 more; making a total of \$9,300 now bearing interest, from which appropriations are being made to California and other destitute sections of our own country.

APPOINTMENT OF AN EDITOR.

The appointment of an Editor, Rev. J. NEWTON BROWN, of Lexington, Va., and his arrival, Oct. 23, 1849, to enter upon his duties, has greatly relieved the Corresponding Secretary, and begun a new era in the style of issue, as well as the amount. Bro. Brown is best known as the Editor of the "Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge."

IMPROVEMENT IN BOOKS.

Though the price of our books has been reduced twenty

per cent., the quality of paper and typographical appearance are improved. This is also the case with our Tracts.

REMOVAL OF DEPOSITORY.

But the most recent and important measure of the year has been the removal of the Depository from the small hired building, No. 31 North Sixth Street, occupied for six years past, to the spacious and beautiful edifice recently secured by the Society, and prepared for use, at 118 Arch Street.

\$25,000 BUILDING FUND.

A Building Fund of \$25,000 has been commenced to pay for the building and lot now occupied, and enable the Society to erect additional buildings upon the rear of the lot.

63. Failure of Negotiation.

The negotiation long pending this year to effect a merging of the New England Sabbath School Union with the American Baptist Publication Society, was unsuccessful, and was dropped late in the Spring.

64. Historical Paper.

After the Annual Report had been adopted and referred to the Board, as usual, for publication, "an interesting paper was read by Bro. J. Newton Brown, sketching the history of the Society, portraying its present position, and directing attention to the work to be accomplished."

65. Resolutions.

On motion of Rev. R. Babcock, D. D., sustained by an animated address,

"Resolved, That the past history, the present position, and inviting facilities for greatly increased effort by this Society, are of the most encouraging character."

On motion of Rev. G. W. Samson, of Washington, D. C., sustained by an address of great interest, it was

"Resolved, That in its very name, the American Baptist Publication Society gives the promise and the pledge, that it is to be a chosen instrument of God in the world's conversion to Christ."

On motion of Rev. Howard Malcom, D.D., sustained by an address of pointed practical character, it was

"Resolved, That in whatever light we survey our country, whether in reference to the vast influx of foreigners, the intense public excitement on various national questions, the alarming multiplication of injurious books, or even the mere increase of our territory and population, we see the strongest reasons for increased zeal in behalf of this Society."

In closing his Address on the third Resolution, the Rev. Dr. Malcom employed the following apt and characteristic illustration of the feeble workings of the Society at present, as compared with the urgency of the need, and the almost unlimited power which it might exert, if properly supplied with capital, and the personal co-operation of the entire Baptist community.

"Sometimes I stand across the street and look at the whole building. I think of the Board, the Secretaries, the Depository, and all the arrangements. It puts me in mind of a noble engine in the midst of a great fire. The flames rage, and yet it does very little. Now and then, a little stream flows, and then it stops. What's the matter ?

Alas ! there is a deficiency of water. 'Ho ! there—buckets ! buckets ! fill her up.'—There, now she plays. Hope brightens. The flames are checked!—Come, brethren, the Publication Society is our engine. Supply her well, and she will prove herself. She can only throw off what you supply.

"Now, sir, it seems to me that of all the errors that I know of among the Baptists, I know of none more remarkable than the neglect of this Society. If they have not heard of the Society, whose fault is that ? The Society's fault, to a very considerable extent ; for if you want to be heard, you must make yourself heard. Who is going to blow the trumpet for others ? Every man has as much as he can do for himself, and this Society must come out, and stand in high places, and call attention, and insist upon a presentation of its noble, glorious, godlike claims."

NEW DEPOSITORY AND BUILDING FUND.

The following resolutions were offered by T. Wattson, Esq., and seconded by W. W. Keen, (each with a subscription of \$500 to the Building Fund,) and unanimously adopted :

"Resolved, That we approve the arrangement of the Board of Managers in reference to a new Depository ; regarding the new location, and the enlarged facilities for business, as an important era in the history of the Society.

"Resolved, That we approve the plan of raising \$25,000 as a Building Fund for the Society."

ANNUAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE SOCIETY.

On motion of Rev. Thomas S. Malcom, seconded by Rev. Heman Lincoln,

"Resolved, That we earnestly request that prayer may be especially offered in behalf of the Society on the second

Sunday in June, and that simultaneous collections be made on that day for the Building Fund."

A liberal subscription was given to the Building Fund.

66. Editorial Secretary.

In addition to the former officers, re-elected, J. NEWTON BROWN was chosen to the office of Editorial Secretary.

The following notice, in reference to his first appointment, appeared in the Baptist Record for November, 1849.

"Rev. J. NEWTON BROWN, the Editor of the 'Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge,' was recently elected by the Board of Managers, 'Associate Secretary and Editor.' The appointment has been accepted, and as our sheet goes to press, it gives us great pleasure to welcome a fellow-laborer so well adapted to the duties of the station."

67. Twenty-Seventh Annual Meeting—1851.

The Annual Meeting of 1851, was held with the Fifth Baptist Church, Sansom St., Philadelphia, May 7th, the President, J. H. Kennard, in the chair.

The Treasurer's Report was highly favorable—far beyond any former year. Receipts, \$40,597.71; of which \$18,098 were from book sales, \$5,803 from Building Fund, &c. New Life Members, 26; Life Managers, 4. The business operations paid all the expenses of stereotyping, printing, binding, salaries of officers, &c.

68. Annual Report of the Board. New Publications.

During the year, as appeared by the Annual Report of the Board, read by the Secretaries, J. NEWTON BROWN

and THOMAS S. MALCOM, 16 new publications were stereotyped or printed.—Curtis on Communion; Bunyan's Awakening, Inviting, and Devotional Works; Frey's Messiahship of Jesus; Scripture Series for Sabbath Schools, No. I; Scripture Series for S. S., No. II; Law's Call to Christians; Pengilly's Seven Letters to the Society of Friends; A Pedobaptist Church no Home for a Baptist; The Serpent Uncoiled; Aids to Devotion; Remington's Reasons; Power of the Cross; The Primitive Churchman, and Primitive Rule of Giving for Benevolent Purposes; Daily Lessons from all Creatures; Prayer for Ministers of the Gospel; Remember; and I am Resolved. The last four are Tracts. These new publications embrace 2,708 pages, (of which 1,894 are 12 mo.) and average 169 pages, equal to 4,400 pages 18 mo. Also, 17,250 copies of the Baptist Almanac for 1851, and 20,000 copies of the Baptist Record were issued,

New editions were printed of Fuller's Works; The Psalmist; The Harp, &c. Copies of volumes printed, 39,000; of Tracts, 145,000; total 184,500. The new stereotype plates, 1,852 pages. Value of books, &c., on hand, \$12,888; of stereotype plates, (13,654 pages,) \$11,100; total \$23,988.

COLPORTEUR MISSIONARIES.

The Society employed during the year 27 Colporteur Missionaries, in seven States, besides Canada and Oregon. They have labored amongst the Germans, Dutch, Irish, and French; also, among seamen and others. Many souls have been led to the Saviour. The salaries of Colporteurs are \$150 per annum.

FUND OF \$10,000.

The amount received on the \$10,000 Gratuity Fund, after deducting expenses, is now \$9,806.83. Grants have

been made to the destitute in seventeen States, besides grants to Seamen and to Missionary Stations. In the foreign field, they have been sent to Assam, Burmah, China, Greece, France, South America, Hayti, Jamaica, &c., besides donations of money for Sunday-schools in France, and to print denominational tracts in Greece. Appeals have come to us to prepare books in the Spanish language for circulation in New Mexico, Mexico, and South America.

BUILDING FUND.

The new building in Arch Street has greatly facilitated the operations of the Society. The amount secured on the Building Fund of \$25,000, (proposed at the session of the Philadelphia Association in October, 1849, is \$11,000, in cash and subscriptions, of which \$2,000 is signed with the condition that \$15,000 must first be raised. The entire sum is needed for paying the cost of the edifice, and for additional building purposes, besides printing and binding.

PERMANENT CHARTER.

The Charter of the Society obtained in 1840-41, was limited to ten years. It has this year been extended by the Legislature of Pennsylvania, and made perpetual by an Act passed April 14, 1841.

69. Proceedings and Resolutions.

The Annual Report was accepted, and referred to the Board, as usual, for publication. It appeared only as an Abstract, with the Addresses, in the Baptist Record for May.

Some alterations were made in the Constitution to bring it into entire conformity with the language of the Charter.

Addresses were made by Rev. T. Armitage, of New York; Rev. D. Shephardson, of Ohio; and Rev. A. Waring, of Hayti, in connection with the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted :

"Resolved, That of all the modern agencies which the King of Zion has called into existence, for the settlement of controversy between his Glorious Truth and the traditions of men, there hath not arisen a greater than the Printing Press. And that in proportion as this Society shall ply her presses, and circulate her publications, she is destined, through that agency, to act a noble part in the total overthrow of Tradition, and in the permanent vindication, of the Truth as it is in Jesus."

"Resolved, That the present extent, rapid growth, future prospects, and spiritual necessities of the Great West, plead eloquently with the friends of Truth and Humanity for an enlargement of the operations of this Society.

"Whereas the publications of this Society in the French language, have been of great use in Papal countries, therefore,

"Resolved, That we recommend enlarged efforts in the circulation of the Society's publications in Foreign languages."

The resolution of the preceding year, recommending and requesting that special prayer be offered, and a collection taken up for the Society, on the second Sabbath in June, in all the churches, was renewed this year, on motion of Rev. J. L. Burrows, and unanimously passed.

Also, a resolution, recommending to the Board of Managers to employ immediately such measures as they think proper, to bring the claims of the Society fully before

the denomination, was offered by Rev. M. G. Clarke, and passed.

70. Increase of Stock.

The stock of the Society, it appears, was increased this year of prosperity, \$2,748.69, besides the amount received on Building Fund; making the capital of the Society, after making provision for all the funds, including the Ten Thousand Dollar Fund, \$38,060.88, exclusive of copyrights, and of the Library, which contains about 1,700 volumes.

71. Annual Report of 1852.

It was originally designed that the Historical Document, when brought up to this point, should be closed by printing in full the Annual Report for 1852—a Report carefully prepared, and containing a larger amount of rich material, historically considered, than any previous year of the Society's labors. We think this will appear from the brief abstract of the Report we now give, and sincerely hope, (for the sake of Bunyan's Practical Works especially,) that the original purpose may not be entirely abandoned.

72. Twenty-Eighth Annual Meeting—1852.

The Annual Meeting of 1852, (the *Twenty-Eighth* Anniversary from the origin of the Society, though, at the time, called the *Thirteenth*,) was held with the First Baptist Church, Philadelphia, Wednesday, May 5th; the President, Rev. J. H. Kennard, in the Chair.

The Treasurer's Report was read by Rev. B. R. Loxley, Assistant Treasurer. Receipts of the year, \$42,358.31; of which \$20,972 were from book sales, and \$5,456, for Building Fund. The Society was free from debt, the business operations having paid all the expenses.

73. Annual Report of the Board.

The Annual Report of the Board was read by the Secretaries.

NEW PUBLICATIONS—BUNYAN'S PRACTICAL WORKS.

Forty-three new publications, (of which 37 are bound volumes,) were issued during the year. They embrace the uniform edition of Bunyan's Practical Works; the Sinner's Progress; Heavenly Footman; Barren Fig Tree; and cheap edition of Pilgrim's Progress. Positive Law; Way to Christ and Walk in Christ, by Prof. Anderson; Voyage of the Ship Christian; Daily Food for Christians; Pike's Religion and Eternal Life; Advice to Young Christians; Minutes of the Philadelphia Association for the first Hundred Years; Infant Baptism a Part and Pillar of Popery, with a new Chapter, by Dr. Ide; Heywood's Heart Treasure; Hall's Help to Zion's Travellers; Manual for Sunday-school Celebrations; Baptist Catechism; Do. with Scripture References; Henry Curran; Bereaved Mothers; Light for the Young, or Letters of Miss Jewsbury; Do. elegant edition; Mrs. Shuck's Scenes in China, with a new Chapter by the Editor; Do. Illuminated edition; Buds of Paradise; Bud of Texas; Bud of the Merrimack; Bud of the Delaware; The S. S. Forget-me-Not; Do. Illuminated; Memoir of Joseph Wistar; The Frazer Family; Independence Day; Lost Opportunities; Jessie Carey; The

Sunday-school Teacher ; One Honest Effort ; and the Ten Commandments.

These new publications embrace 7514 pages, nearly double the number of last year, and equal to 11,028 pages, 18mo. All but 8 were stereotyped. (Number of new stereotype plates, 5,000 ; making the number six times what it was three years ago, besides 102 engravings.) Also there were issued 20,000 copies of the Baptist Almanac, and 32,400 copies of the Record. The whole number of publications on the Society's Catalogue is 355.

New editions were printed of Law's Call ; Aids to Devotion ; Pengilly's Scripture Guide ; Remington's Reasons ; Help to Children ; No Home ; &c., &c.

Value of stock in books, &c., 16,147.06 ; in stereotype plates, (18,714 pages,) \$14,486.78. Total, \$30,634.24. Total value of Society's property, including building, &c., \$55,953.54.

COLPORTEUR MISSIONARIES.

Thirty-four Colporteur Missionaries were employed in eleven States and in Oregon, six of them Germans, several, college students. They labored among Germans, Dutch, French and Irish, besides the seamen. One had visited within 30 months 6,438 families, 5,267 vessels, and 1,100 canal boats, sold 4,656 books, and distributed 47,282 tracts, containing 365,552 pages, besides selling or giving away 308 Bibles and Testaments, and reporting 29 hopeful conversions.

Two liberal brethren have set apart this year \$2,500 each, the interest of which is designed to support perpetually one Colporteur Missionary forever. Thirty-seven Life Members and four Life Managers have been added by the payment of the usual sums.

GRANTS.

Grants have been made on the \$10,000 Fund to the full amount of the interest, \$600, sending joy to many hearts. Thirty-three Libraries, to Ministers and Sunday-schools, have been sent out, making 192 within eight years. In the foreign field grants have been made to China, Burmah, Siam, France, Hayti, &c., especially to the stations of the American Baptist Missionary Union, the Southern Baptist Convention, the Free Mission Society, the American Indian Mission Association, and the Grand Ligne Mission.

BUILDING FUND.

The amount secured for the Building Fund in cash and subscription is \$17,633, of which \$13,272 has been paid. The plan of securing from 1000 ladies \$10 each, has met with favor, and many names have been enrolled. Still about \$8000 are lacking to complete the sum required and needed.

74. Addresses and Resolutions.

Addresses were made by the Rev. H. Lincoln, M. M. Dean, A. D. Gillette, and M. G. Clarke, in connection with the following resolutions, which were all unanimously passed :

“*Resolved*, That the activity displayed the past year in the Publishing Department of this Society, and especially in the issue of Sunday-school Literature; the excellence of the works issued, and the extensive good effected by their circulation, call for fervent gratitude to God, and sympathy from the churches; and afford a cheering pledge of energy and success in the future.”

“*Resolved*, That we recognize the good providence of

God, in the prosperity attending upon the Colporteur operations of this Society, the past year; and commend to the Board the importance of this class of evangelical labors, as it stands connected with the moral wants of our nation."

"That one of the speedy, simple, and efficient modes of Ministerial Education is furnished by the plan of this Society, in supplying the numerous ministers who thirst for knowledge, but have only a few books, with the choice volumes of Fuller, Bunyan, and others of our eminent writers. Therefore

"*Resolved*, That at least \$2,000 should be secured the present year, for the purpose of furnishing 200 libraries, of the average value of \$10 each, for such Ministers."

SECOND SUNDAY IN JUNE.

"Whereas, for the past two years, the second Sunday in June has been so widely observed as a season of special prayer for the Society, therefore, *Resolved*, That in view of the blessings which God has bestowed in answer to prayer, we solicit a renewed remembrance of the Society at the throne of grace, on the second Sunday in June; accompanied by collections on that day, or on some succeeding Sabbath in the same month, for the Building Fund, or for the Colporteur Fund."

75. Collection for Mr. Oncken.

An interesting letter was read from Mr. J. G. Oncken, of Hamburg, Germany, asking for \$1,000, to aid him in circulating Pengilly's Scripture Guide on Baptism, and other publications. A collection was taken in response to Bro. Oncken's urgent appeal.

76. Bunyan's Works.

The proceedings of this Anniversary were invested with a peculiar interest, arising chiefly from the cheering statements of what had been accomplished during the year. Six of the volumes issued contained twenty-six distinct works of Bunyan; so that deducting the adopted and ornamental volumes, and the separate editions of the Heavenly Footman and Barren Fig Tree, the Society has issued during the year *Fifty-Three* distinct works, averaging more than one work of 195 pages, 18mo., for each week throughout the whole year.

77. Twenty-Ninth Annual Meeting---1853.

The *Twenty-Ninth* Annual Meeting of the Society was held with the Spruce Street Baptist Church, Philadelphia, May 4th, 1853; the President, Rev. J. H. Kennard, in the chair. In some opening remarks he alluded to the successive deaths of former Secretaries and Managers, and to the gracious providence of God in raising up others to fill their place, and in blessing the Society with growing prosperity.

The total receipts for the fiscal year, it appeared, from the Treasurer's Report, were \$43,404.88, of which \$25,699.59 were from sales. Expenditures, \$43,397.64. Balance in the Treasury, \$42.76.

78. Annual Report of the Board.

The Annual Report of the Board was read by the Rev. HEMAN LINCOLN, Associate Secretary. It opens with a

statement of several changes in the executive officers of the Society during the year, particularly the failure of Bro. MALCOM's health, and his determination to resign—the appointment of Rev. KENDALL BROOKS, in September, 1852, as Associate Corresponding Secretary, and his resignation at the close of four months service—and the consent of Rev. HEMAN LINCOLN to fill his place for the remainder of the year, which he had accordingly done. These rapid changes, together with the removal of three of the experienced acting Managers, Rev. G. B. IDE, D.D., G. KEMPTON, and A. D. GILLETTE, from the city, had produced great perplexity and difficulty in carrying on the vast enterprise of the Society. Still, under the Divine blessing, it had advanced nobly and prosperously, beyond any former year.

PUBLISHING DEPARTMENT.

Unparalleled efficiency appeared in the Editorial and Publishing Department. *Seventy-Nine* new publications, comprising 4,792 pages, had been added to the Society's Catalogue, of which *forty-eight* are bound volumes—a larger number than during any *three* previous years together. The total number of books issued for the year is 432,700; comprising 19,678,800 pages; besides about 3,000,000 pages of Tracts; total, 22,678,800. Thirty-six of the bound volumes are Sunday-school books; more than doubling the number on our Catalogue. A Five-Dollar Library of fifty volumes is selected, uniformly bound, and nearly ready for sale in the Depository.

Among the new publications of the year are the American Baptist Register, by J. Lansing Burrows, 496 pp. octavo, with twenty-seven elegant engravings of churches and colleges; Malcom's Travels; an improved stereotype edition of Remington on Communion, with an appendix; Rise and Progress of Religion Memoir of Dr. Cote, of

the Grand Ligne Mission ; Memoir of Mrs. Jones, of the Siam Mission, enlarged and stereotyped ; Memorials of the family of Dr. Carson ; Believer's Pocket Companion, by William Mason ; Temptations of City Life, by Dr. Cushman ; Modern Infidelity, by Robert Hall; with an Introduction by J. Newton Brown ; and Dew for the Drooping Flower, or, Nine Letters to Miss Saunders, by John Foster.

Sixteen of the Sunday-school books are original copyright works.

Marked improvement appears in the letter-press of the books issued, without increase of price. Indeed, prices have been again lowered to meet the wishes and wants of the public. For example, Fuller's Works, and Bunyan's Practical Works, have been reduced from \$6 to \$5 each ; and a correspondent reduction on all the other books of the Society goes into effect the first of July.

The Baptist Record, of which 26,000 copies were issued gratuitously, is not included in the foregoing statement of new publications, although it is composed mostly of original matter.

CIRCULATION OF BOOKS.

The sales of the year reached \$25,699.59, an increase of nearly \$5,000 over the previous year. The profits paid all expenses, including officers' salaries, and yielded besides \$1,611 to the Society's treasury.

Grants of books and tracts have been increased. Libraries have been given to 24 destitute ministers the past year, to 14 Sabbath-schools, and to 12 other persons and Societies ; making 228 grants of Libraries in nine years. Grants have also been made as usual for foreign lands.

The Society's catalogue now embraces a large number of volumes and tracts, but the circulation is comparatively limited. The Board therefore earnestly urge on Associations,

Churches, and Pastors the importance of active co-operation in spreading them abroad.

A FLOATING FUND of \$10,000 is recommended to be formed, out of which, without interfering with the present capital, ministers may be gratuitously supplied with the means of thus doing good.

SUNDAY-SCHOOL DEPARTMENT.

The Society, at its last anniversary, having commended this Department as worthy of special care, an unusual share of attention and labor has been given to it. The number of volumes has been doubled, by the addition of 36 new ones, and 50 volumes selected for a Five-Dollar Library.

The services of an elegant wood-engraver have been permanently secured, in order to give new attractions to our issues in this department.

The Board suggest the great importance of a more complete organization of this department—partly in order to collect and publish the full statistics of our denominational Sabbath-schools, and partly to facilitate the introduction of our Sabbath-school books among them. Some “central organization” seemed necessary to accomplish the former object, “and the Publication Society may perhaps attain the desired result more readily than any other.” If the Sunday-school Department can be thus efficiently organized, having its auxiliary branches established in every State in the Union, its publications and sales will rapidly increase, and the Society will feel the imperative necessity of establishing a weekly or monthly paper, as an organ of communication with the thousands of schools gathered in the city and the country, in every nook and corner of this great Republic. The circulation and usefulness of such a paper can hardly be computed.” Such were the views taken of this point in the Report of 1853.

HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT.

Another suggestion of this Report urged the importance of organizing an HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT, "for the special purpose of collecting and preserving all documents elucidating our denominational history, and publishing such papers and volumes as throw light upon the rise and growth of Baptist churches, and the progress of Baptist principles, throughout the Union.

"The Publication Society, from its central location, combined with the advantages of a permanent building and a denominational library, already comprehensive and valuable, affords peculiar facilities for a central organization, with which all the other Societies may become co-operative.

"One of the ultimate aims of such an organization should be to secure a complete and reliable History of the Denomination from the days of the Apostles.

"A more complete and thorough study of the manuscripts treasured in the great libraries of Europe, may lead to the most important discoveries." The recent publication of the long-lost work of Hippolytus is cited as an encouragement to this hope.

COLPORTEUR DEPARTMENT.

Thirty-four Colporteurs were in the employ of the Society during the fiscal year, of whom six were students. Fourteen, including eleven students, were commissioned after March 1st, 1853; forty-five were in actual service at the date of the Report, distributed through fifteen States and one Territory. The importance of their work is ably argued in the Report, from which we select a few sentences:

"Perverts to a barren skepticism, both in the highest

and lowest circles of American society, are far more numerous than perverts to Romanism. In the great cities of the Union, a rigid scrutiny would probably discover a larger number of Sabbath-breakers than of church-goers; while in the more sparsely settled districts on the frontiers, habits of religious negligence are confirmed by the infrequency of public worship.

"The established ministry of the word fails to correct these evils. The ordinary duties of pastors are too engrossing to admit of much extension of labor. Unless some other class is specially commissioned to look after those who neglect the sanctuary, and feel no interest in personal religion, they will have no Gospel, but will live as pagans in the heart of a Christian nation. It is of little avail to erect beautiful and commodious houses of worship; to fill the pulpit with a learned and eloquent ministry: they are prejudiced against both churches and preachers. So long as the regular ministry are inadequate to the wants of our growing population; so long as any community contains large numbers of errorists and skeptics, and habitual neglecters of an evangelical sanctuary; so long as numerous families can be found unsupplied with the Bible and with religious works—so long will the Colporteur be an indispensable auxiliary to the regular ministry.

"We hope the day is not far distant when city churches will feel that their organization is hardly complete, unless a Colporteur is supported in connection with the stated pastor. With an intelligent and holy ministry in the pulpits to unfold gospel truths with comprehensiveness and power, and with a judicious and zealous band of Colporteurs to visit from house to house, among the habitual neglecters of the sanctuary, the problem of evangelizing great cities may be solved, and the chief danger to our Republic, taught by the stern lessons of past history, may be perhaps averted."

The labors of the Colporteurs employed by the Society during the year were quite successful. The sale of books was largely increased, as well as the gratuitous distributions to those unable to purchase. Seven Colporteurs labor among the Germans, and one among the Swedes. The Report says:

"The German element in our population is worthy of especial attention; and the great success which has followed well-directed labor in their behalf, supplies abundant motives for increased diligence in the future. The first preaching among them, advocating our denominational views, was commenced by Rev. Mr. Fleischman, now of Philadelphia, in Newark, N. J., in the year 1839. His coadjutors have multiplied till the German Baptists in this country now number 12 churches, and not far from 1000 members. They have united in a regular Association, and are expecting soon to establish a monthly paper, as a substantial means of increasing the intelligence and strengthening the unity of their newly gathered membership. A large number of German Colporteurs will prepare the way for numerous churches in the next generation. Three millions of German emigrants have found a home among us.

"One Missionary Colporteur has baptized twenty-five converts; another, twenty-eight; another, sixty-five; another, one hundred, as consequent upon his labors. Another reports conversions almost every month. Others have assisted at revivals and in the formation of new churches.

"The Board regard with favor the Colporteur labors of students during their vacations. It furnishes an admirable practical discipline, introduces them to an acquaintance with men as well as books, and saves them from many mortifying experiences which fall to the lot of others, who enter directly from the cloistered study upon the duties of pastoral life.

"One of the most pleasing features in the Colporteur operations of the year, is the disposition manifested by benevolent Christians to sustain Colporteurs at their individual expense. An aged brother in Warsaw, N. Y., has set apart \$2500 of his property, and secured it by bond to the Society, for the perpetual support of a Colporteur till the world shall end. He writes with a full heart of the joy which this step has yielded him, and seeks to excite others to emulate his example. 'The investment I have made of my property,' he says, 'yields me a far greater interest in joy and satisfaction to my immortal spirit, than it would if it was in railroad stock, especially when I hear the cars running on the Sabbath.' One brother in New Hampshire, and a lady in Boston, each support a Colporteur, and several in Massachusetts, New York, and Pennsylvania, are preparing to follow their example. Several Associations are doing the same.

"In former years the Board found it difficult to obtain suitable laborers. But since the 1st of January nearly fifty applications have been received from brethren highly recommended. This unexpected influx of candidates has greatly embarrassed the Board. They were formerly perplexed by the want of *men*; now, by the want of *means*. Providence is calling upon the Society to increase the number of laborers. *One Hundred Colporteurs for 1853!* Twenty thousand dollars for the Colporteur treasury! Is this too much to expect or ask from the friends of the Society? Even this enlarged band of laborers is wholly inadequate to the wants of the country, and the sum requisite for their support can be furnished by the churches with no diversion from other charities."

79. Annual Report Continued.

Five pages of the Annual Report are occupied with interesting extracts from the letters of Colporteurs.

AGENCIES.

Six Agents had been in Commission, Rev. M. M. Dean, C. B. Marston, B. Hicks, C. Randall, R. G. Toles, and O. D. Taylor ; some only for a short period. Mr. Randall alone labored the whole year. Rev. F. G. Brown had just been appointed for New England. The Report justly remarks :

"The labors performed cannot be reckoned by dollars and cents. The formation of public opinion, the diffusion of intelligence about the Society, the enlistment of pastors in carrying forward our plans to benefit the Churches, by the circulation of our publications, cannot be measured by the monthly reports of the Agents announcing their collections."

Six Life Managers and forty-nine Life Members were added this year.

cccc

BUILDING FUND.

The \$25,000 Plan for the Building Fund is filling up : \$15,417.92 have been received in cash, and \$5,406.60, in pledges : total, \$20,824.41. Several thousand dollars of this sum were pledged on condition that the whole amount be secured by Oct. 15, 1853.

THE FOREIGN FIELD.

The intelligence from abroad; from Missionaries aided by this Society, shows a growing demand—particularly in Hayti, Africa, Burmah; and Germany, Denmark and

Sweden. Bro. Oncken writes from Hamburg: "We occupy a vast field—Germany, Sweden, Denmark—and for all these countries we need your aid. If the importance of the object was fairly brought before our brethren in the United States, I should hope that \$1000 might soon be raised, which would enable us to effect much." Dr. Dawson writes from Rangoon, after the great fire: "The donation of books from the Publication Society, will be really a most precious boon—now that we are entirely stripped of every book we owned." Bro. Day, from Bexley, Liberia, in acknowledging a donation of books, says, "I regard the evangelization of Africa as the noblest, most glorious enterprise in which the Churches can engage."

The field is the world ; and the operations of the Society may be indefinitely extended, sustained by the liberality of the Churches, and blessed by the presence of the Holy Spirit. The Officers and Managers crave a frequent remembrance in the prayers of their brethren—especially on the second Sabbath in June."

80. Prayer for the Editorial Secretary.

The Annual Report was adopted and ordered to be printed under the direction of the Board. On motion of Rev. T. S. Malcom it was voted to spend a season in special prayer for the recovery of Rev. J. Newton Brown, the Editorial Secretary, who was lying dangerously ill, and also, for Divine Wisdom to guide in all the deliberations and doings of the Society. Rev. Dr. Dowling led in prayer.

It is but recording a fact, to mention here, that Mr. B.'s fever left him the same afternoon.

81. Special Meeting Proposed.

Rev. J. M. Peek, D.D., submitted the following Resolutions, which were carried:

"Resolved, That the interests of the Baptist Denomination require the organization of a Historical Department in connection with the American Baptist Publication Society.

"Resolved, That the Society hold a meeting to-morrow evening, at $7\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock, for the purpose of organizing such a Department." J. M. Peek, D.D., H. G. Jones, Jr., and H. Lincoln, were appointed a Committee to report a plan of organization.

82. Resignation of Rev. T. S. Malcom.

Rev. T. S. MALCOM, the Corresponding Secretary elect, on account of impaired health, requiring prolonged absence from the Society, tendered his resignation. It was ultimately accepted, and Rev. J. Dowling, D.D., J. H. Kennard, and T. Wattson, Esq., were chosen a Committee to draw up and present suitable Resolutions. The following Resolutions were reported and adopted:

"Resolved, That in consenting to accept the resignation of the Rev. T. S. MALCOM, as Corresponding Secretary of the American Baptist Publication Society, an office which he has held for the last seven years with honor to himself and great advantage to the Society, we desire to express our high appreciation of eminent services performed by him in contributing to raise it to its present position of importance and usefulness. His name will ever be identified with the history of the Society, as one of its truest benefactors and greatest blessings.

"Resolved, That we consent to the acceptance of his resignation only on account of his own positive statement that an imperative conviction of duty compels him to retire from the arduous and exhausting labors of this position.

"Resolved, That in parting with our beloved brother, with whom we have so long labored in connection with the Society, our prayers shall go with him that his health may soon be fully restored, and his useful life long be spared, that he may continue to be as rich a blessing to the Church and to the world, as he has been since his connection with this Society."

83. Choice of a Successor.

Rev. HEMAN LINCOLN was chosen to fill the vacant post, and a committee appointed to wait upon the Baptist Church of Jamaica Plains, Mass., to obtain their consent to release him from recent engagement as their pastor elect.

This measure was unsuccessful. The Church refused to give him up; and Rev. WILLIAM SHADRACH was chosen in his room as Corresponding Secretary of the Society.

84. Resolutions.

We return, however, to the Annual Meeting. Besides several Resolutions of a general character, we find the following, submitted by Rev. J. W. Smith :

"Resolved, That the formation of a second \$10,000 Fund, to secure greater facilities to Pastors in the circulation of the Society's publications in their fields of labor, will enlist a large and earnest band of volunteer Colporteurs in the service of the Society, and promote the growth of intelligent piety in the Churches."

The recommendation of the second Sabbath in June as a day of special prayer and collection for the Society, was renewed for the third time.

85. American Baptist Historical Society.

On Thursday evening the Society met, as appointed, to take into consideration "the formation of a NATIONAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY." A Constitution was presented by the Committee, chosen for that purpose; who stated, in substance, that instead of a Historical Committee, they had thought it best to give the Department "a separate, permanent form," at the same time that the officers should be elected by the Publication Society.

The Constitution was unanimously adopted. The following officers were chosen for the first year: Rev. W. R. Williams, D. D., of New York, *President*; J. M. Peck, D.D., William Hague, D. D., Baron Stow, D. D., and R. B. C. Howell, D. D., *Vice-Presidents*; Horatio G. Jones, Jr., *Secretary*; Rev. B. R. Loxley, *Treasurer*; Rev. J. Belcher, D. D., J. Dowling, D. D., J. L. Burrows, H. Lincoln, W. Jewell, M. D., and J. Hanna, Esq., *Curators*.

Rev. John M. Peck, D. D., then delivered an Address on "The Distinctive Principles of the Baptists."

H. G. Jones, Esq., offered, and together with Rev. Dr. Malcom, sustained the following Resolution:

"Resolved, That the eminent labors of the early Baptists of this country, their self-sacrifices, and their noble devotion to the cause of Truth and the important principles which have always distinguished the denomination, make it sacredly incumbent on us to associate for the preservation of all documents which can furnish to us, and to posterity, the fullest possible record of their sentiments, their sufferings, and their success."

The resolution was adopted, and after prayer, the meeting adjourned.

Thus was organized the American Baptist Historical Society—a dependent but perfectly distinct body, the child of the Publication Society. Its Constitution is found below.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1. This Department shall be called THE AMERICAN BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

ARTICLE 2. The object of this Society shall be to collect and preserve all manuscripts, documents and books, relating to Baptist History; the biographies of individuals, &c., &c., and to publish such historical and antiquarian works as the interests of the Denomination may demand.

ARTICLE 3. This Society shall be composed of two classes of members, to wit: 1st. Contributing members; who shall consist of all such persons as may make an annual payment of one dollar to the Treasurer, or as may collect and contribute to the Society any valuable historical documents, periodicals, or manuscripts. 2d. Corresponding members; of whom not less than one in each State shall be appointed. All members shall be elected by the Board of Curators.

ARTICLE 4. The officers of the Society shall consist of a President, eight Vice-Presidents, a Corresponding and a Recording Secretary and a Treasurer, who with twelve other persons shall constitute a Board of Curators. The officers shall be elected by "The American Baptist Publication Society," at each annual meeting, and shall hold their offices until their successors are appointed.

ARTICLE 5. The Board of Curators shall have the control and management of all such manuscripts, periodicals and books, as may be collected by or contributed to the Society, and they shall present a report of their proceedings to "The American Baptist Publication Society,"

at each anniversary, and shall fill all vacancies that may occur in their body.

ARTICLE 6. This Society shall hold an annual meeting in connection with the Anniversary of the Publication Society, when a Historical Address shall be delivered by such person, and on such subject, as the Board of Curators may designate.

ARTICLE 7. Any Society organized for the same or similar object, may become a co-operating body with this, by opening a correspondence with this Society, and furnishing a copy of their constitution, reports, and publications.

The officers and delegates of such co-operating Societies shall be entitled to a seat at the meetings of this Society.

ARTICLE 8. The Board of Curators shall meet as often as they think proper, and shall pass such By-Laws as they may deem requisite for their government.

ARTICLE 9. This constitution may be altered or amended at any annual meeting of The American Baptist Publication Society, by that body."

86. Thirtieth Annual Meeting.

The Thirtieth Anniversary of the Society was held with the Fifth Baptist Church, Sansom St., Philadelphia, May 11th, 1854, the President, Rev. J. H. Kennard, in the chair.

It appeared, from the Treasurer's Report, that the receipts from all sources had risen to \$49,612.68; being an increase of over \$6000 beyond the previous year. The expenditures were \$49,552.12: Balance in Treasury, \$60.56. Sales, \$32,265.71, from \$25,699.59, last year: Increase, \$6,566.12 over the last year.

87. Report of the Board.

The Annual Report of the Board was read by the Secretaries. It announced the death of two Vice-Presidents of the Society, Hon. FRIEND HUMPHREY, and GARRET N. BLEEKER, exemplary Christians and generous benefactors. It notices some changes in the Board, commends the faithful gratuitous labors of the Standing Committees, and records the election of the Rev. WILLIAM SHADRACH to the office of Corresponding Secretary in June, 1853; although other engagements did not permit his entrance on his duties till the first of September.

On the retirement of Mr. Lincoln, the office of Associate Secretary was abolished, and Mr. Hiram F. Reed was appointed Clerk, to aid the Corresponding Secretary, especially in the Colporteur and Publishing Departments. His services proved very valuable—combining practical knowledge, peculiar aptitude, diligence and skill.

PUBLISHING DEPARTMENT.

The number of new publications was 53; comprising 5432 pages; equal to 6228 pages 18mo. The number of new stereotype plates added, was 5347.

The total number of pages printed the preceding year, ending May 1st, 1853, was 22,678,000. The total number of pages this year was 32,149,000—(equal to 43,977,000 in 18mo.)—being an increase of nearly 10,000 pages.

The Society's Catalogue now embraced 450 publications; of which 208 were bound volumes. Of the Tracts, 218 (including the ten Tracts for Children) were in English, 15 in German, and 3 in French.

Among the new publications are "The Memoir" of Mrs. Comstock of the Arracan Mission; William Carey; Christ

our Life ; Memorial of Baptist Martyrs ; Life in Judea ; Western Side ; Rock of Faith ; Modern Infidelity ; Grace and Apostleship ; Rome against the Bible ; Baptismal Balance ; Life and Times of Menno ; and Bunsen's Views of Baptism ; besides 24 new Sunday-school books and 9 new Tracts.

Of the Baptist Almanac 20,000 copies were issued, and 20,000 of the Record. Eight new books in English were in Press ; and thirteen in other languages—French, 3 ; German, 2 ; Dutch, 1 ; Swedish, 6—including Tracts. Fourteen important volumes were in contemplation—including John Foster, Christmas Evans, and Manuals of Baptist Theology, Church Polity and Church History.

Correspondence with about twenty Authors had been opened or maintained by the Editorial Secretary, to procure suitable original books, especially in the Sunday-school Department.

GRANTS.

Grants of Tracts and Books made this year, amounted to \$2,273 ; forty-seven poor Ministers were furnished with libraries, at an average value of \$12 each, of well-selected books. Many poor Sunday-schools sending \$5 or \$10, received double the worth of their money by donation. The Report says :

"In the Committee on Distributions scenes have sometimes been witnessed, which move the deep fountains of the heart. On hearing the appeal, eyes that do not often weep, are moistened—an order follows in a choked utterance, 'Send him Fuller's Works, the Baptist Commentary, and Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge, and if there is no money in the funds, charge to me.' "

AGENCIES.

The Report dwells at great length on the importance of Agencies, and labors, we think successfully, to dispel the

common prejudices against their employment. This is an uncommonly valuable argument. Six Agents were employed during the year—Rev. O. D. Taylor, B. G. Toles, Charles Randall, F. G. Brown, J. W. Osborn, and Bela Hicks. Rev. D. C. Haynes also had just received an appointment.

COLPORTEURS.

Sixty-two Colporteurs were under appointment; of whom thirteen were students in vacation time. Forty-two only were in commission at the close of the financial year, March 1, 1854. The result of their united labors is thus stated: 1,089 weeks of labor performed; 28,892 miles traveled; 18,866 volumes sold; 609 volumes granted; 235,308 pages of tracts distributed; 3,758 visits made to vessels and canal-boats; 32,890 family visits; 1,083 prayer-meetings; 1,558 sermons preached; 347 hopeful conversions reported; 281 baptisms administered; 10 churches organized, and 7 Sunday-schools founded. The Report says:

“Colportage may be regarded as the right arm of our service. Estimated by the foregoing facts and figures only, we have a clear proof of its *efficiency* and *economy* as an evangelizing system. As a people, it is believed, that we possess *peculiar facilities* for using this effective instrument of good—*the availability of talent for the service, and the deep necessities of our people for larger and more efficient culture*. Thousands of our people depend on monthly sermons, chiefly, for their religious knowledge. What a field for books! A vast mine of dormant and hidden, if not buried talent, might, and should be worked, and brought to light and action, by projecting on a broad scale our Colporteur operations. Who doubts we have such talent wasting and shriveling up for want of use? We have it—we know we have it—talent which,

if it were called out, duly appreciated, and fully enlisted in the service, would waken up new hopes in many desponding bosoms as to the world's conversion.

"This agency combines and harmonizes happily with all our other agencies for good. Our country needs, and claims it at our hands. The unwelcome and astounding fact is forced upon us, as an indisputable verity, *that millions of our countrymen are unevangelized*, and are as far from God, and hope, and holiness, as if there were no Saviour, no Gospel, no salvation !

"Shall sin and death hold undisturbed dominion over these millions of our fellow-men ? God forbid. The promise and command of Christ forbid it. The safety of our country's institutions forbids it. Christian pity and piety and patriotism join to forbid it. Then send Colporteurs. Wherever, over the broad surface of the land, ignorance needs instruction, vice a corrective, guilt pardon, and despair hope, there send these men ; and if they cannot do all that is desired, let them do what, by the help of God, they may, to stem the torrent of moral evil."

No less than twelve pages of the Report are then filled with the returns and extracts from the letters of Colporteurs. Many of the details given are full of the deepest interest.

88. Foreign Colportage.

"In several provinces of Sweden," says the Report, "a religious awakening has been in progress for years, and it is at this moment advancing with increasing power. It is marked by one surprising feature. Without a ministry of our Baptist faith, many of the subjects of this awakening have embraced our principles, and they seek an administrator from whom they may receive baptism. In the true

martyr-spirit, they meekly suffer all the opposition, scorn, and persecution of a prejudiced populace and an intolerant government.

"This is a most inviting field for Colportage. For while the Conventicle Act seals the lips of a preacher, the Press is free, and books to any extent may be circulated without let or hindrance. Five brethren in Sweden have been well recommended to the Board as Colporteurs.

"Rev. Andreas Wiberg, now in this city, preparing books and tracts under the direction of the Board, is expected to go back to Sweden soon, where he can superintend and help forward the cause. Eight or ten Colporteurs could be appointed at once, had we the means to sustain them.

"In France also, a small Baptist church was formed a few years since for the city of Bordeaux. They have sent application to us to get three tracts published, prepared by one of their number, brother Renard. They also ask aid for means to circulate them. They thus strongly appeal to us: 'Baptist Christians! France sent you bayonets more than threescore years ago, to aid you in founding your Republic; now we solicit your aid, by the help of the Lord, to evangelize that same France, if it be dear to you.'

"An application has also been received from Rev. E. B. Cross, for the purpose of establishing a Colporteur of our Society in the English settlement at Cape Town, in South Africa. Our missionaries to Burmah often stop there on their way, as brother Cross did. He recommends a man living on the spot, as a Colporteur.

Another application comes from brother Jacob Von Brun, of Bexley, Liberia. He is a native African, who had charge of the mission of our Missionary Union before the arrival of brethren Shermer and Goodwin."

89. Building Fund.

The Building Fund of \$25,000 was made up before the 15th of October, 1853. But the Committee of Inquiry, raised to see how it could be most advantageously expended, reported unfavorably to the present location, and recommended removal to a more eligible point. A new impetus was given to this plan by the generous offer of \$12,000 from two brethren to aid in carrying it into effect, provided \$18,000 more could be secured to purchase a lot and erect a suitable building. The present lot and building are too small for our rapidly expanding work.

90. Publishing Fund.

On this subject the Board express a deep conviction of the necessity of a speedy increase of working capital. The work required grows faster than the capital. At least \$20,000 is needed for this special purpose ; besides all that may be required to open a few central Depositories on a safe plan. "The Society has now a broad and firm foundation. It asks a larger workshop and more implements, or means to make them. Shall it be denied ?"

The Annual Report, from which we have extracted above more largely than we intended, on account of its excellence and importance, was unanimously adopted, and ordered to be printed under the direction of the Board of Managers.

91. Report of the Historical Society.

Dr. Belcher, in the absence of the Secretary, H. G. Jones, Esq., then presented to the Society the First An-

nual Report of the Board of Curators of the American Baptist Historical Society; which was ordered to be printed with the Minutes. He also presented to the Society a beautiful portrait of the late Rev. Dr. Staughton, a gift from Dr. W. M. Fahnestock, of Bordentown, N. J., which was received with appropriate remarks by Rev. Dr. Dowling.

The officers of the Historical Society were, by ballot, elected for the ensuing year.

92. Committees on the Annual Report of the Board.

Committees were appointed, for the first time, on motion of Rev. Dr. Dowling, to report on the several parts of the Annual Report of the Board of Managers of the Publication Society. These reports will be found in the Minutes; and though extremely able and valuable, need only be referred to here, in connection with the proceedings of the Society.

93. Addresses and Annual Sermon.

Interesting Addresses were delivered by Rev. J. C. Burroughs, of Chicago, G. W. Sampson, of Washington, and J. G. Oneken, of Germany, on the value of a Christian Literature, and the utility of books and tracts in the work of evangelization.

The Annual Sermon was preached by Rev. Dr. Stow, of Boston, on the words in John xix. 25. In the estimation of the preacher, the work of the Publication Society derived its value and glory from its connection with the Cross of Christ, and its power to spread the transforming **VIEWS FROM CALVARY** over our country and the world.

The officers chosen this year were Rev. J. H. KENNARD, President; Rev. Wm. SHADRACH, Corresponding Secretary; Rev. J. NEWTON BROWN, Editorial Secretary; Bro. B. R. LOXLEY, Assistant Treasurer and Depository Agent; JOHN HANNA, Esq., Recording Secretary, and W. W. KEEN, Treasurer; besides 31 Vice-Presidents and 21 Managers.

94. Thirty-First Annual Meeting—1855.

The Society held its Thirty-First Anniversary with the First Baptist Church in Chicago, Ill., May 11, 1855. In the absence of the President, J. P. Crozer, one of the Vice Presidents, was called to the Chair. Rev. Jirah D. Cole, of Ill., was appointed Recording Secretary, *pro, tem.* Brethren present, not members of the Society, were invited to share in its deliberations.

The Treasurer's Report was read. Receipts from all sources, \$52,705.74; Disbursements, \$52,660.22; Balance in hand, \$45.52. Increase over the preceding year, \$3,093.06. From Sales of Publications were received, \$32,819.03; for Benevolent operations, \$13,096.86; for Capital, \$5214.18. Debts, \$15,801.72. Total Assets, \$79,468.70; Balance, \$63,666.98.

95. Report of the Board.

An Abstract of the Report of the Board was read by the Secretary, Rev. Dr. Shadrach. It was ordered to be printed; and such portions as relate to Depositories and Foreign and Domestic Colportage, were referred to Committees.

The Annual Report opens with an allusion to the place

of meeting, as being the first time since its origin that its Anniversary was held west of the Alleghanies; notwithstanding it had so long and strenuously labored for the benefit of the West. It also notices with gratitude the unbroken harmony of its counsels in a year of sad confusion. It then enters into an explanation of its peculiar organization, as both a **BENEVOLENT** and **BUSINESS** Society, and the relation of these two features of its Constitution to each other, and to the Churches. It then presents the work of the year, in the

PUBLISHING DEPARTMENT.

The total number of pages issued during the year was 26,598,000, equal to 32,109,000 18mo. pages. New publications, 44; comprising 6234 pages, making 9,050,000 pages, equal to 10,610,000, in 18mo. Also 20,000 copies of the Almanac, and 10,000 of the Record.

The number of works on the Society's Catalogue was 476; 218 of which were bound volumes. Of the Tracts, 224 were in English, including 11 Children's Tracts; 6 in French; 15 in German; and 8 in Swedish.

Among the new publications were—The Pure Church; The Travels of True Godliness; Doddridge on Regeneration; Memoir of Mrs. Lord, of the Chinese Mission; Alleine's Alarm; Baxter's Saint's Rest; Pike's Guide to Young Disciples; Worship at Work, by W. R. Williams, D.D.; Wiberg on Baptism, in Swedish; Life and Times of Menno, in German; and the Pilgrim Harp, a new German Hymn Book, prepared by brethren Fleischman and Rauschenbush; besides 13 original Sabbath-school books, including The (Baptist) Sabbath-school Harp, prepared by brethren Burrows, Cheney, and Brown. All these are fully described in the Report.

The number of new Stereotype plates added was 3763.

96. New Form of Constitution.

An amended form of Constitution was presented, as required by the Society the last year, the aim of which was twofold—strict conformity with the Charter, and an extension (if possible) of its nationality.

GRANTS.

Poor Sunday-schools have been supplied with more or less books in every instance of application. Thirty-six poor Ministers, with a Library worth \$10 each. The Colporteurs distributed freely near half a million of tracts. Grants have also been made to Missionaries and mission-stations in foreign lands—Canada, Hayti, Germany, Sweden, Africa, and China. Total value of grants for the year, \$2,134.42. Tenfold that amount could be distributed every year were the means at command. The appeals of last year for this purpose failed of effect.

97. Depositories.

The policy of founding Branch Depositories, under proper guardianship and supervision, recommended at the last Anniversary, received the earnest and prayerful attention of the Board. With a book stock of \$20,000, nearly half of which was in the hands of Colporteurs, it was necessary to proceed with caution, and on a scale proportioned to the means. To meet the expectations of some sanguine minds, would require half a million, if not an almost boundless capital.

In October, by direction of the Board, the Corresponding Secretary visited the principal cities of the West on an exploring tour. He met in quick succession the State Conven-

tions of Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin, and the General Association of Illinois, for the purpose of inquiry and consultation. In Chicago and St. Louis generous overtures were made by private brethren ; rooms were offered for Depositories, and pledges given to cover all expenses attendant on the experiment. On his return, these facts and propositions were submitted to the Board, together with a plan of operation. All these appeared feasible ; but the sudden pressure in the financial world produced first hesitation and then a panic over the country. The St. Louis brethren requested delay. But in January, it was resolved by the Board to establish a Branch Depository at Chicago, together with a District Agency. At the same time a similar resolution was passed in favor of St. Louis, as soon as they should desire it.

The Depository at Chicago was put under the care of Rev. Leroy Church and Rev. J. F. Childs. The District Agency was temporarily accepted by Rev. J. A. Smith. Nine of the Western Colporteurs are attached to this Agency ; and more should be added. No less than 30 or 40, should be attached to each Branch Depository. Churches, Pastors, and Sabbath-schools should co-operate in planting the goodly tree, until in time, "the fruit thereof shall shake like Lebanon."

BUILDING FUND

The plan of raising \$30,000 for a new building, which began so auspiciously, was retarded in its execution by the pressure of the times. The subscription stands at \$13,150. Old subscription, \$25,882.98. Total, \$39,032.98.

PUBLISHING FUND.

To the same cause must be ascribed the failure to raise \$20,000 as an addition to the working capital of the Society. This want was more pressing even than the former.

The preparation and issue of works greatly needed and loudly called for, were thus unavoidably delayed. The increase of stock demanded to supply the growing Colporteur force, and to ensure the success of Branch Depositories, cannot be made without it.

AGENCIES.

Eight Agents were employed during the year, more or less. Five remained in the service of the Society. All complained of the difficulty of raising funds, even where this object was more cordially approved.

DOMESTIC COLPORTEURS.

The whole number of Colporteurs in commission was 114, of whom 34 were College students. These laborers were distributed through 21 States and Territories, and from New England to Oregon, from Canada to Texas. At the close of the year, 69 were in commission ; 35 of whom were sustained by funds specially designated. The result of their labors is summed up thus :

Weeks of labor performed, 1,809 ; miles travelled, 74,657 ; volumes sold, 36,722 ; volumes gratuitously distributed, 2,107 ; besides 485,980 pages of Tracts ; sermons preached, 3,201 ; prayer-meetings held, 1,816 ; converts baptized, 368 ; families visited, 73,314 ; new Sabbath-schools established, 43 ; new churches planted, 15. No less than 2,290 families were found without the Bible. The value of publications sold was \$12,407.86. Extracts from Colporteurs' letters fill *ten* pages of the Report.

Nearly all this spiritual husbandry, it should be remembered, was bestowed on waste and desert places. Colportage, as carried on by this Society, in the main, is, strictly speaking, a preaching institution. Most of the Colporteurs are ministers of Christ.

98. Colportage in Sweden.

In Sweden, Rev. C. F. Hejdenberg, becoming a Baptist, went to Hamburg and was baptized. On his return he baptized many waiting believers, and constituted four Baptist churches. Persecution has raged against these dear disciples in various distressing forms, but in vain. The opposition has but fanned the holy flame. Earnest appeals are made for Colporteurs, tracts and books. They have the men, but lack the means. Shall we supply these means?

A volume on Baptism and Communion, besides several Tracts prepared by brother Wiberg, in Swedish, have been stereotyped by the Board, and 500 copies of the book have been put at the disposal of the author. Brother Wiberg longs to go back to his afflicted brethren, aware of the perils that await him, but unable longer to resist their pressing calls. He has prepared a plan of Colportage in Sweden. Means are alone wanting to carry it out. He is just the man to superintend this important movement.

The Report closes with an earnest appeal for help to carry on the great and ever-growing work entrusted to the Board by the American Baptist Churches, and requests a continued remembrance in prayer.

99. Reports of Committees, &c. &c.

The various Committees on Domestic and Foreign Colportage Publications in Foreign Languages made their reports; which were adopted and ordered to be printed with the Minutes. A letter of deep interest from Rev. C.

F. Hejdenberg, our imprisoned brother in Sweden, was read, and ordered to be printed with the Minutes.

The Amended Constitution, as reported by the Board, was fully discussed, and finally adopted. Sup. 270.

The Officers and Managers for the ensuing year were chosen: Mason Brayman, Esq., of Chicago, *President*; Rev. J. H. Kennard, J. P. Crozer, Esq., Hon. J. H. Duncan, Hon. Thos. W. Ewart, *Vice-Presidents*; Rev. Wm. Shadrach, D.D., *Secretary*; Rev. George C. Baldwin, D.D., *Recording Secretary*; W. W. Keen, *Treasurer*; and 21 *Managers*.

Standing Officers of the Board, Rev. J. H. Kennard, *Chairman*; Rev. T. S. Malcom, *Recording Secretary*; Rev. J. Newton Brown, D. D., *Editor*; Rev. B. R. Loxley, *Depository Agent*.

On motion of Rev. E. L. Magoon, seconded by Rev. G. S. Webb—

"Resolved, That our thanks are due to our excellent brother, Rev. Joseph H. Kennard, for the courtesy and fidelity with which, for ten years past, he has presided over the councils and aided the funds of the Society; and that, in acceding to his request for withdrawal from the Presidency, we shall entertain toward him sentiments of undiminished gratitude and esteem.

The Chairman, bro. Crozer, then introduced to the Assembly, Mason Brayman, Esq., the newly-elected President of the Society, who made a brief address.

Resolutions were adopted in favor of the sanctified Press, the Sabbath-school, and an increase of Colportage, accompanied with brief voluntary addresses; after which the Society adjourned, with prayer by Rev. B. M. Hill, D.D., of New York.

Thus closed the Thirty-First Anniversary of the Society, from the beginning in 1824, and the Fifteenth from the time of its reorganization in 1830.

100. Thirty-Second Annual Meeting.

The Thirty-Second Anniversary was held with the Oliver Street Church, New York, May 12, 1856 ; Rev. J. Kennard, D.D., in the absence of the President, was called to the chair. Prayers were offered by Rev. J. Aldrich, of Mass., and Rev. Dr. Howell, of Va. It is a fact illustrating the want of practical interest in this great denominational institution, that in a large congregation, only *eighty-six* members of the Society were present.

The Treasurer's Report was read by Rev. Dr. Shadrach, followed by an abstract of the Report of the Board of Managers. The latter opens with the following :

101. General Retrospect.

" Sixteen years have now elapsed since the American Baptist Publication Society was organized under its present name. As this is precisely the number of years in which it was operating under its original name of the Baptist General Tract Society, it is natural to glance over the work of the two equal periods, and bring the results into comparison. Could we study them thoroughly and thoughtfully we should probably be astonished to observe, in both periods, how small an amount was contributed by our great denomination to supply the capital necessary to accomplish its noble objects ; and with like probability we should be convinced that these objects were realized to the full measure of the means placed at its disposal ; that the policy of its Board of Managers has never been narrow—as some have supposed—but generous and enlarged, often indeed beyond its pecuniary power ; that its scanty resources

have not been wasted, though lost at times, in the most praiseworthy, but unrequited and unsuccessful enterprises, in the establishment of Branch Depositories; and that notwithstanding these losses, it has, by the blessing of God, been conducted on the whole with so much diligence, economy and circumspection as to secure public confidence, and also to accumulate a growing capital, inadequate indeed to its magnificent work, but still effectual in accomplishing inestimable good, both at home and abroad.

This will appear from the following statistics:

In 1840, the year of reorganization, the entire property of the Society, in stock, funds and cash, was \$4,121.70.

In 1855, after deducting all liabilities, it was \$63,667.03; being a gain of near \$60,000 in fifteen years.

But it should be borne in mind that this property is not, by any means, all working capital. Deducting the Building Fund, of \$21,805.26; the Invested Fund, of \$61.01; and the Permanent Colporteur Fund, of \$2,500; the interest of which only can be expended annually; there remains for Publication purposes, including stereotype plates, wood-cuts, steel engravings, &c., a total residue of \$39,300.71.

As the policy of the Society has always been in favor of cheap publications, it is obvious that the rapid augmentation of our capital cannot be looked for from the sale of our books; the prices of which, though low at first, have in conformity with this policy, been reduced from time to time. Hence it depends on donations from the churches.

With this limited amount of capital, let us see what the Society has accomplished in the way of Publication.

As a Tract Society, in the first sixteen years, from 1824 to 1840, it issued, (according to a Circular prepared by Rev. J. M. Peck, in 1845,) fifty-four millions of pages.

As a Publication Society, in fifteen years, from 1840 to

1855, in books and tracts of all sizes, it issued about one hundred and thirty millions of pages; and if we include the present year, to complete the sixteen of the comparison, not far from one hundred and forty-six millions; which added to those of the first period, make a grand total of *two hundred millions* of pages of evangelical truth—embracing, in due proportion, those distinctive principles of our New Testament belief, which are necessarily excluded from the publications of other denominational and union societies.

If we divide the last period from 1840 to 1855 into three portions of five years each, the stages of progress will be more distinctly and impressively seen. The first half decade was distinguished by the introduction of Colportage; the second, by the creation of the Ten Thousand Dollar Fund; and the third, by the opening and completing of the Twenty-Five Thousand Dollar Building Fund, and entrance into the new Depository in Arch Street.

In the first half decade, from 1840 to 1845, were issued	4,230,255	pages
In the second, " from 1845 to 1850,	18,151,863	"
In the third, " from 1850 to 1855,	107,587,800	"

The remarkable increase in the last named five years, from 1850 to 1855, is worthy of notice. It is due to several causes; among which may be named the appointment of a permanent Editor—the addition of the Ten Thousand Dollar Fund to our working capital—the increase of sales consequent on removal to the Arch Street Depository—all which occurred in 1849–50; to which may be added, since that year, the rapid increase of valuable books, the steady increase of our Colporteur force, and the use by loan of several thousand dollars of the unemployed Building Fund for publishing purposes.

From this brief retrospect of the preceding years of the Society's history, we proceed to record the work and pro-

gress of the last year—which completes, as we have said before, the sixteenth year of the Society's labors under its present name and more extended scope.

102. Retrenchment in the Publishing Department.

"The total number of pages printed the past year is 16,276,293 ; equal to 18,478,293 pages in 18mo. The number of new publications is twenty-seven, comprising 2,157 pages ; of which there are 156 octavo, 416 duodecimo, 1,457 18mo., and 128 32mo., being together equal to 2,421 pages 18mo. This includes the Baptist Almanac for 1856, of which 20,000 copies have been printed.

The number of new Stereotype plates added during the year is 1908 : making our total stock, 35,142 pages. In 1850, it was but 12,770.

The total number of publications now embraced in the Society's Catalogue is 501 ; of which 237 are bound volumes ; of the Tracts, 232 are in English, 6 in French, 15 in German, and 11 in Swedish.

RETRENCHMENT.

"The falling off nearly one-half in the number of pages issued, when compared with the preceding year, is wholly owing to the exhaustion of our available resources, and the consequent necessity of retrenchment for the time being. For many months, the Finance Committee judged it sufficient to keep up a supply of our Catalogue books, and laid an interdict on the issue of any new publications, and also on the gratuitous Baptist Record.

This lull of his usual employment, enabled the Editor to prepare the Baptist Almanac for 1856 ; to collect and examine a large number of volumes bearing on the Church History ; to extend his preparatory reading and plans in

all directions, and to bring up the "Historical Document, or Annals of the American Baptist Publication Society," from 1840 to 1855, according to the wishes of the Board. Having closed up his assigned work in this Department, he will be able from this time, if God permit, to devote himself without reserve or distraction of thought, to the great Historical Composition to which the Society has called him—the condition prescribed by the Board being fulfilled.

103. Sales, Receipts, and Disbursements

"The Sales of books and tracts have amounted to \$35,554.15, a slight advance on the previous year—of which there has been a large increase in sales by our Colporteurs, being \$2,103.61 more than their sales for the year ending March, 1855.

The receipts from all sources, including balance in hand of \$45.52, is \$54,501.63. Disbursements for the year, \$54,407.51; leaving a balance in the Treasury of \$94.12.

Of the receipts of the year, \$32,368.20 were from sales of publications; \$13,279.07 for various objects of benevolence, such as colportage, general and specific grants of books and tracts to the destitute, and to needy Ministers and Sunday-schools, and \$5,068.60, added to the capital of the Society for the Publishing and Building Funds.

104. Benevolent Funds Overdrawn. Debts and Assets.

"The statement of the Benevolent Funds shows, that while the Society is engaged in the manufacture and sale of its publications, its business operations have been so conducted as not to draw from these funds; the disbursements

considerably exceeding the amounts received for these purposes, leaving these funds overdrawn. In the amount received for Colporteur Fund is included the 20 per cent. allowed on the sales by the Colporteurs, which is put to the credit of that fund to aid the Colporteur's work.

The assets of the Society, including Bills Receivable, Invested Fund, Real Estate, Book Stock, Materials, such as Paper, Plates, Wood Cuts, Engravings, &c., foot up the sum of \$78,434.76, against which there is a debt of \$9,339.26, being less than debt of last year by \$6,464.46; leaving a balance, after discharging all liabilities, of \$69,095.50 for the capital of the Society, which, however, includes the amounts overdrawn on Colporteur, Ministers' Library and General Purpose Funds, and is exclusive of the unpaid pledges on the Building and Publishing Funds.

The Treasurer's Report exhibits simply the amount of cash which passes through his hands, and is exclusive of a large amount of the business, which cannot well be brought into the cash accounts.

105. Destitution and Gratuitous Distribution.

"Among the families visited by our Colporteurs within the last two years, no less than four thousand seven hundred and forty-six were found without a Bible; and nearly double that number of households, as actually seen by these statistics, with no religious books whatever except the Bible. We must, in view of this fact, be allowed again to urge our earnest plea for more liberal contributions, to aid us in lessening this sad destitution of the means of Christian enlightenment. We gratefully acknowledge a grant of Bibles and Testaments from the American and Foreign Bible Society to the amount of \$200; thrice that amount could be advantageously distributed annually by our Col-

porteurs. The number of volumes donated by Colporteurs during this year is 2,782. Twenty-one \$10 libraries have been sent to needy Ministers, and \$179.55 worth of books to poor and destitute Sabbath-schools. Grants of books and tracts to the amount of \$394.55 have been sent to foreign countries, including packages sent to Germany, Sweden, Africa, Hayti, Canada and the Empire of Brazil. The total amount expended in these donations is \$2070.90, a sum by far too small, but yet exceeding the amount received for this purpose.

At the Annual Concert of Prayer on behalf of the Publication Society, the second Lord's day in June, we hope our brethren will bear in mind this branch of our work, and that Pastors, who know the worth of a good library, will plead with the Churches on behalf of destitute Ministers, who complain that they are 'lame in their efforts at preaching for want of books.' This also would be a suitable time to remember the poor and famishing schools at the West. We should have, at least, one hundred \$10 libraries sent to these Schools the present year. Remember the poor.

106. Branch Depositories. Chicago.

"As yet we are unable to report a successful experiment in carrying out our policy of Branch Depositories and District Agencies. The branch at Chicago, founded a little more than a year ago, was closed at the end of the first six months, owing mainly to the want of a suitable District Agent to take charge of its interests, and provide for its wants. Rev. J. A. Smith, of Chicago, had accepted a temporary agency; but, prior to entering on the service, was released at his own request. In the mean time the expenses of room rent and clerkship were being incurred, and though these were light, yet, as we had little

prospect of raising funds in that field to meet them, it was deemed best to close the concern for the present. To sustain distant Depositories, the incidental expenses of which are not met by contributions raised in their respective localities, would be ruinous. Such an experiment, several years ago, was found to result in disaster, and cannot soon be repeated.

With a large Colporteur force to gather around such Branch Depositories, and an efficient Agency in the field to raise funds for Colporteurs' salaries, and incidental expenses, the plan would, doubtless, work well, and be attended with many decided advantages. The failure of this, our first attempt, has, by no means, changed the views of your Board as to the soundness and wisdom of such a policy. Experience will guide us in our subsequent efforts; and we hope the time is not far distant when we shall see in Chicago a flourishing Branch Depository of the American Baptist Publication Society. At the present time our books are kept on sale by Messrs. Keen & Lee, who are engaged, by contract, to keep on hand continually, not less than \$300 worth of our books.

107. The Society a Denominational Necessity.

"The American Baptist Publication Society was organized, primarily, to meet what, at that time, was regarded as a denominational necessity—a necessity deeply felt and acknowledged. We were then a numerous communion, and were found diffused through every part of our peopled territory, but were sorely deficient in the means of religious instruction. The growth of our churches was much more rapid, in point of numbers, than that of our Ministry. Excepting some favored portions of the older States, a

great destitution of the ordinary means of grace was everywhere experienced. In the interior settlements of even the older States, the people depended mainly upon itinerant labor, and many of the churches had little religious training save what they derived from twelve, or even six, visits during the year from traveling preachers; and many of these but poorly instructed themselves. Destitute alike of oral instruction and of suitable books, how should our people attain an intelligent, healthful and vigorous piety? Untrained in knowledge, immature in principles, and lacking in supervision and guidance, they were liable to be carried away with every wind of doctrine; and multitudes, as foreseen and predicted, were ensnared by sweeping delusions, and 'damnable heresies.' In the rural districts and rising villages of the West, the destitution and danger were still more apparent, and more appalling. There, literally, thousands were scattered about like sheep without a shepherd, or even a fold—with neither School, nor Church, nor Minister.

To lessen this destitution, so painful and threatening, our wise and provident fathers proposed a united effort in plying the Christian Press. They justly regarded that mighty instrument as full of promise, if wielded with wisdom and vigor, to meet the exigency; as fitted to supply, at least in part, the lack of oral instruction and pastoral oversight; to expose error, and guard the flock of the Lord against the wiles of evil seducers. The views of the denomination were invoked on the subject, and ready and cordial were the responses received from all our borders. Conventions and Associations, great and small, with unanimity commended the measure, and our honored brethren at the head of the periodical press, with a praiseworthy zeal, fostered the enterprise.

Hopes then cherished, we regret to say, have been but partially realized. While we gratefully own and adore the

goodness of God for what has been done in spreading His truth, we yet feel deeply abashed and confounded, that, with facilities so great, resources so ample, and a field so necessitous, and yet so inviting, we have accomplished so little. Millions of pages of saving truth, it is true, have been sent abroad through this and other lands, still the stinging conviction abides, that the standard of duty required that millions more should have passed through our hands. By the blessing of God upon our issues, we know that light and refreshment, warning and wisdom, peace and joy, have been imparted to many ; had our duty been fully performed, multitudes more might have shared in similar benefits.

106. The Great Want.

" From the commencement of our enterprise till the present, our great want has been that of an adequate Capital. Appeals have been made from time to time ; but the responses were not in accordance with the spirit and zeal with which the plan was adopted. The voices and pens of such men as Davis and Knowles, Brantly, Allen and Rhees, plead, in their day, with affection and force, for ample means to carry out the worthy design. But, except the Ten Thousand Dollar Fund, closed in 1848, and the Twenty-five Thousand Dollar Fund, for the Tract House, completed in 1853, together with a few liberal legacies left by ardent friends of the cause, little has ever been done to give the Society strength and efficiency.

107. The Present Effort.—\$100,000 Fund.

" The present effort commenced in the autumn of 1853, by a proffer made by two members of the Board to give five

thousand dollars each, upon condition that thirty thousand should be raised, with a view to provide the Society with larger premises and a better location. This pledge was coupled with a promise of further aid, provided an effort were made to raise an additional sum for publishing purposes. For this latter object the sum of twenty thousand was named. The two subscriptions were opened at once, and jointly called for fifty thousand dollars. They were both commenced under very auspicious and promising circumstances, and your Board hoped to see them completed at an early day. But a sudden revulsion occurring soon after in the business and financial affairs of our country, our progress was checked, and for more than a year they remained nearly stationary. In the mean time, the legacy of three thousand dollars, left the Society by its friend and patron Garrett N. Bleeker, of New York, gave us fresh hope and encouragement. It was resolved to apply this legacy to the Publishing Fund as part of the twenty thousand dollars. Up to November last the amount pledged on these two subscriptions was a fraction over twenty-three thousand, less than one half the sum required to make them available. The Board began to yield to a feeling of discouragement; and several of the largest subscribers, finding their brethren so slow to co-operate, were entertaining the question of recalling their pledges.

Some of the friends to whom application for aid was made, both in New York and Philadelphia, objected to our plan, not on the score that the sum we aimed to secure was too large, but because it was too small, and somewhat out of proportion. It was alleged that twenty thousand dollars, if raised for publishing purposes, would still leave the Board to struggle with difficulties arising from the want of an adequate capital. At the same time, kind intimations were given that if the plan were so modified as to secure a much larger amount for this part of the endow-

ment, they were prepared to unite in the effort. These facts were made known to the Board at their November meeting, and awakened the liveliest interest. The subject was fully discussed, and as the measure of enlargement accorded so well with their own convictions as to the real wants of the case, an order was passed unanimously that we attempt at once to raise, by subscription, the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars, not more than Thirty Thousand of which to be employed for building purposes, the remaining Seventy Thousand to be added to the permanent Publishing Fund. In proof of the earnest good-will with which the Board adopted this measure, it will be sufficient to state that one of the members present raised his subscription, given on the former plan, from one thousand, to five thousand dollars, and another from five thousand, to eight thousand five hundred. These two subscriptions of thirty thousand dollars for building, and seventy thousand for publishing purposes, are now blended in one under the heading of "Enlargement of Permanent Capital."

108. Reasons for this Effort.

"Your Board will attempt no formal argument to sustain this policy of enlarging the capital, and thereby increasing the power of the Society. They would not assume to instruct their brethren by descanting on the power of the press for good or for evil, or on the necessity of counteracting the tendency of its corrupt and polluting issues by such as are pure and saving. All they could say on the bearing of the Evangelical Press on the wants and dangers of a people so full of energy and enterprise, so heterogeneous, mixed, and scattered as ours, or on the general weal of the nation, is fully known and conceded. Without looking beyond our own communion, with its

million membership nearly, and having as adherents one-fifth of our country's population, we have motive enough to press us to the use of this and every other available agency in the work of evangelization. Every argument and every motive which impelled our fathers to plan and call into being this Institution, has, with the progress of years, gained additional force and intensity, and should at this day urge us to ply with redoubled zeal and energy the power they placed in our hands.

With our present meagre resources, it is in vain to expect that, by any tact, or skill, or energy, your Board can give the Society that degree of efficiency which comports with its worthy aims, the name it bears, the work assigned it, and the vast and growing field inviting its efforts. The sons of Jacob in Egypt might have made bricks without straw, as readily as your Board can make books without money, or create an ample stock without a more adequate Capital. With the small Capital now at command, and the consequent limited range and meagre variety of our publications, every department of our operations is carried on at a disadvantage. To illustrate this, we select the department of Colportage. With a wider range and a richer variety of good and useful books, the labor of Colporteurs would be far more effective than it can be at present. Their sales would be greatly increased; and thus, while the field they traverse would be more amply supplied with the means of instruction, and their toil made productive of richer moral results, the pecuniary profits arising from this increase of sales would aid us to add to our colporteur force, since, by a rule of the Board, twenty per cent. on colporteur sales is applied to the Colporteur Fund. This itself is an item of no trifling importance, as is shown by the fact, that during the year now closed, more than one-third of our income for the support of our system of Colportage

was derived from this source. A double moral benefit would thus arise from enriching our catalogue, viewed alone in relation to Colportage. Treasures of truth from the fountain of heavenly wisdom would be more largely distributed by those already in service; while, meantime, our means to commission more laborers to enter new fields on a similar errand would be thereby augmented. As matters now stand, to supply the lack of variety in our own publications, we are compelled to purchase from other societies. This we do at a loss to our business interests, but we cannot avoid it without weakening the power of Colportage. We buy mostly from the American Tract Society; but as their rules permit them to give us but $22\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. discount from catalogue prices, and we credit our Colporteur Fund with 20 per cent., the remaining $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. falls very far short of covering the expense of freightage alone, to say nothing of other incidental expenses. In this we suffer a loss—a loss, however, which is better borne than avoided, until endowed with more ample resources, we are prepared to send forth our spiritual warriors more fully equipped from our own armory.

With the experience acquired by years of service in watching over and managing the affairs of this Institution, the best proof, perhaps, that your Board can give to their brethren of the importance which they attach to the measure here commended, will be found by a reference to the subscription list. After contributing largely, at different periods, to the permanent funds already secured, seven members of the Board stand pledged for this endowment to the amount of twenty-three thousand dollars, or nearly one-fourth part of the whole sum proposed. They state the fact to show they do not wish to impose burdens on others which they themselves are unwilling to bear. Forty thousand dollars are already secured, and scarcely as many as forty names are found in our list. They appeal to those

of their brethren who have both the means and the heart to give. Let this endowment be raised without interfering with the ordinary annuities for this or kindred societies. This once done, the Society will possess what hitherto it has never enjoyed—an effective and self-augmenting capital. Give it this capital, a good location, and ample premises, and let it go forth on its mission of mercy, to bear its tidings of good to the poor and perishing, to bind up the broken-hearted, to give to mourners in Zion ‘beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, and the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness, that they may be called trees of righteousness—the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified.’

109. Agencies.

“Eight agents have been in the field during the whole, or a part, of the year. The aggregate of time devoted to the service was a fraction over four years and nine months, for one man. The season proved unusually unpropitious for their work. In some portions of the field, they found it almost impracticable to accomplish any thing in the way of collecting funds. Our farming brethren had suffered the loss of two successive harvests—the first by drought, and the second by mildew and rains. Everywhere, the severity of the winter obstructed their traveling; and when they pressed their way through the snowdrifts to meet their appointments, they often found the attendance so small that no attempts were made at raising collections. This has occasioned a serious deficiency in our Colporteur Fund. The expenses of this branch of our operations has exceeded our resources by nearly four thousand dollars.

Three excellent brethren have resigned their commission, as Agents, within the year, and two others have been ap-

pointed. Rev. D. C. Haynes, at the close of our fiscal year, was transferred from his former field in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, to take the place of Rev. Freeman G. Brown, resigned, as General Agent for New England, with the title of District Secretary. The number now in commission is seven. As it is usual to judge of the worth of an agent's service by the amount of funds he collects, we wish the fact to be noted, that one of our Agents, during the last winter, was instrumental in the conversion of one hundred and twenty souls, sixty-eight of whom were baptized upon a profession of their faith. Within the year, he has preached 282 sermons; reports 180 hopeful conversions, 111 of whom have been baptized.

110. Testimony of Agents.

"Rev. F. G. BROWN, our efficient General Agent for New England, has, we regret to say, owing to ill health, been compelled to retire from the service. In closing his connection with the Society, Bro. Brown writes:—

'My field, while in your employ, has been a very wide one, so wide that it has been impossible to bring much influence to bear, for any length of time, on any one point; but I have traveled enough, in various directions, visited churches, ministering brethren, laymen, and been present at numerous conventions and associations, and have seen and heard enough to convince me that the Publication Society stands very high in the estimation of the New England Baptists, so far as it has made their acquaintance. I say it frankly, that I know of no society that is made the subject of so little animadversion as the American Baptist Publication Society. Of course, one may find a person, here and there, who may be disposed to find fault with

some of the little details of the Society's operations. But for the great work itself, and for the safe and economical manner in which it is carried forward, all agree in expressions of the heartiest commendation. There is not even enough of opposition, perhaps, for its good. I have been sorry to find the Society so little known, however, in some directions; and such an absence of all denominational feeling, in some instances, on the part of brethren, leading them to patronize some kindred institution, instead of one of their own. These difficulties will be obviated, I think, in time.'

III. Books and Colportage.

"The books from your press are contributing greatly toward a favorable introduction of the Society. One may well feel proud of such publications, both as it respects matter, manner, and cheapness. It would be strange if, with your limited capital, you should publish books as cheap as similar institutions with a far larger capital. And yet I was highly pleased, on one occasion, at a fact like this. A bookseller, putting a book into my hand from your press, complained that it was ten cents higher than a similar book which he had on his shelves, issued by a kindred institution. I asked to see the two books side by side; and then drew his attention to the binding, the paper, and, finally, to the print of each. He was obliged to admit that, in each of these particulars, your book had the preference; and what was our mutual surprise, and my own gratification, to find that, after all, it was your book that was the cheaper, too !

"I have been pleased to see how popular Colportage is among the people. There is no feature of the Society so taking as this. The one thing necessary to render it in-

creasingly and universally popular, is the regular reception of reports from Colporteurs, by such individuals, churches, and Sabbath-schools, as give them their support. I have found a number of young men who favored the idea of undertaking the support of a Colporteur; sometimes a business firm, composed of young men, have entered upon this work. At other times, a young man has done this work alone. Here is one such instance. On one occasion, after having presented the claims of the Society to an audience in the neighborhood of B., I received a note from a young merchant, desiring me to call at his store at my earliest opportunity. Without knowing or surmising the object of the writer, I called as desired; when the young man, taking me into a retired part of his place of business, opened conversation, by giving me a brief sketch of his Christian experience; of the habit of his pious mother, when he was but a lad, of taking him by the hand, and leading him to her closet, where, laying her hand upon his head, she would kneel, and devoutly and earnestly supplicate God to early convert him to Christ, and make him a highly useful Christian. "Those prayers," said the young man, with deep emotion, "God was pleased to answer; and now I want to devote my days to his service. He has prospered me in business, and I want to render unto him a tribute of gratitude. Here is the sum necessary to support a Colporteur, for one year; calculate upon a similar amount from me for ten years to come, should life and prosperity attend me. Let me know the name of the person who is to be supported with this money, and where will be his field of labor. I wish to correspond with him, and make him a subject of constant prayer."

"REV. CHARLES RANDALL.—Field, Eastern and Central New York. Since the resignation of Rev. R. G. Toles, his field has been divided between brethren Randall and Fol-

well. Bro. R., at the close of our fiscal year, March 1st, writes as follows :—‘ I have traveled about two thousand miles, one-fourth of which, at least, has been traveled on foot. I have preached on the Sabbath from one to three sermons, and during the week have visited from house to house, imparting information, and receiving the contributions of the brethren. This, I am aware, is a laborious method of conducting my work, but I am satisfied that it possesses decided advantages. Among the many hundreds with whom I have thus held personal intercourse, the great majority cherish a warm regard for the interests of the Society, give liberally for its support, and earnestly commend it to God in their prayers. Many express a strong desire to have the Society issue a Sunday-school paper, and to have a full depository of our publications in the city of New York. The recent opening for Colportage in Sweden, has awakened a very deep interest; and the conviction is becoming more general that the Society’s operations in this department should be greatly enlarged.

‘ In conclusion, allow me to say, that the cordiality with which I have been received among my brethren, as the Agent of the Society, and the aid they have so cheerfully imparted, have been very pleasing to me, and greatly encouraged me in my work.’

“ REV. D. C. HAYNES.—Field, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. In reviewing the labors of the year ending March 13th, being the close of his second year in the agency, Bro. Haynes writes thus: ‘ I have visited Conventions, Associations, Sunday-schools, and individuals, as extensively as possible throughout the two States, and in every place have met a kind reception. The Society is growing in favor with all intelligent persons. There is a general belief that it is assuming a position second to none.’

“ DR. N. W. FOLWELL, our Agent in Western New York,

the field made vacant by the resignation of Rev. O. D. Taylor, after referring to the obstructions thrown in his way by the severity of the winter, and the scarcity of money, owing to the failure of two successive harvests, writes as follows :

‘In nearly every church which I have visited, I have found a general expression of sympathy and good-will toward the Publication Society, and have received a cordial welcome at the homes of my brethren, and especially the pastors, for which I feel very grateful.

‘My conviction in regard to the Society is, that we have no more efficient instrumentality existing among us for the great work of home evangelization, combining as it does the power of the press with the living ministry, in the dissemination of truth. My heart’s desire and prayer to God is, that it may receive the cordial support of all the churches.’

“REV. A. JONES.—Field, Vermont. Bro Jones entered on the agency in November last, and under date of April 15th, writes as follows : ‘In entering on the work assigned me, I was not ignorant of the labor required to introduce a new object to the churches, designed to take a place among the sisterhood of religious enterprises, and ask for a regular support. My first efforts have been directed to make friends to the Society, and to induce the people to love the work in which it is engaged. Special pains have been taken to show that the Society does not conflict with other good institutions, but is adapted to co-operate with them in evangelizing the world. And, believing that the most successful and useful agencies are those that sympathize most closely with the churches, it has been my object to aid the pastors and churches, as much as possible, while with them on my special errand.

'During the period of my labor for the Society, I have traveled 2000 miles; preached 65 sermons; attended 40 prayer-meetings; and visited 35 churches. The brethren have received me kindly, professed an interest in the work of the Society, given some money, and promised more. I believe these professions to be sincere, and shall work with confidence for future aid. A toilsome work has been performed, *and the Society is known in Vermont.*'

"REV. SUPPLY CHASE.—Field of labor, Michigan. In accordance with the expressed wishes of brother Chase, made known to the Board when he accepted the agency, he has been encouraged to stop by the way and preach to the people, wherever he found an open and effectual door. In these evangelical labors, unsparingly rendered, he has been signally blessed, as will be seen by the following summary for four months: Sermons preached, 155; conversions, 120; baptisms, 68. Total for the year: Sermons, 282; conversions, 180; baptisms, 111.

'In reviewing my labor, I cannot but feel that God directed the measures which resulted in my devoting the time in the manner I have. A rich blessing has followed; and, although the labor has been severe, I have obtained a rich reward, in seeing the cause of the Master revived and sinners converted.'

112. Colportage.

"The number of Colporteurs put in commission during the year ending March 1st, 1856, was One Hundred and Nine. Of that number twenty-three were students; thirteen from Rochester University; seven from Madison; and three from Lewisburg.

These brethren were distributed as follows: 2 in Ar-

kansas ; 1 in Delaware ; 10 in Illinois ; 4 in Indiana ; 1 in Iowa ; 3 in Kentucky ; 1 in Maryland ; 5 in Michigan ; 3 in Missouri ; 1 in New Hampshire ; 4 in New Jersey ; 30 in New York ; 3 in Ohio ; 17 in Pennsylvania ; 1 in Tennessee ; 4 in Vermont ; 1 in Virginia ; 7 in Wisconsin ; 1 in Oregon ; 5 in Canada ; and 5 in Sweden.

The number in commission at the close of the year was sixty-four, located as follows : 2 in Arkansas ; 1 in Delaware ; 5 in Illinois ; 4 in Indiana ; 1 in Iowa ; 2 in Kentucky ; 1 in Maryland ; 4 in Michigan ; 3 in Missouri ; 12 in New York ; 8 in Pennsylvania ; 1 in Tennessee ; 4 in Vermont ; 1 in Virginia ; 7 in Wisconsin ; 3 in Canada ; and 5 in Sweden.

From the accompanying statistical tables it appears that during the year, 1,990 weeks of service has been rendered ; in which 85,989 miles were traveled ; 36,663 volumes sold ; 2,788 volumes given to the poor ; 478,392 pages of tracts distributed ; 67,252 families, and 3,503 vessels visited ; 2,621 prayer meetings held ; 3,500 sermons preached ; 486 converts baptized ; (the baptized by Colporteurs being only about one-half of the number hopefully converted) 12 Churches constituted ; and 31 Sunday-schools organized.

These are the simple statistics of Colporteur labor ; but who can form an adequate estimate of the moral results. To look at these naked figures alone, we gain but a faint and partial view of the more direct and immediate fruits of the work of our Colporteurs. The Sunday-schools gathered, the Churches formed, and the converts made and baptized, while they furnish cause for devout thanksgiving, constitute only a part of the blessings attending their labor. These vital and co-operative agencies are "first fruits," gathered on fields where they have labored alone. From their monthly reports we gather that other converts to Christ, numbered by hundreds, have been won by services

rendered by them in conjunction with pastors and other evangelists. They sometimes spend ten days or a fortnight assisting at public meetings, promoting revivals by preaching the Gospel, distributing books and tracts, and by earnest personal converse from house to house. Our tables do not exhibit the fruit of these services; the record of that is on high.

Look again at the extent of their travels—85,733 miles—enough to girdle the globe three and a half times. In the course of these travels they visited 67,252 families, or one to every mile and a quarter, embracing an aggregate of 336,000 souls; and over this field they scattered no less than 39,405 volumes of a choice Christian literature, besides hundreds of thousands of pages of tracts, replete with the saving truths of the Gospel. Admit that much of this seed may have fallen in stony or sterile ground, yet who, that knows the dealings of God with men, can doubt that much will ripen in fruit unto life eternal. Evangelical books and evangelical sermons, by the might of the quickening Spirit, convey alike to the souls of men, the life and power and peace of the Gospel. The book and the sermon, each, has its own peculiar advantage, and the two combined constitute God's chosen instruments for propagating Christianity, at home and abroad.

113. Colportage a Complete System of Evangelism.

"Colportage, as conducted by this Society, embraces a full and complete system of Evangelism. By far the greater number of *our* Colporteurs are Ministers of Christ, ordained to preach the Gospel. They carry with them the living "oracles," and other religious books and tracts—from Sabbath-schools, found Churches, dispense ordinances,

and ordain others to preach the Gospel. Their books and tracts are used as chief auxiliaries in prosecuting their high and holy vocation. The teachings of Bunyan and Fuller, Baxter and Hall, Doddridge and Booth, Flavel and Pike, with many more, are powerful helps in the work of cultivating the moral wastes of our country. Having wide and extensive fields to traverse, their visits cannot be frequent, so that without the aid of the books they distribute, their toilsome, itinerant labor would render but little fruit. The seed sown from the lips of the preacher, even when falling on a prepared and productive soil, germinates once, and then dies ; while the seed sown from the leaves of the book, possesses unlimited germinant powers, and springs up again and again, with no loss of vitality. It falls, perhaps first, in the heart of a thoughtless and prayerless father, and a promising blade is seen in growing sobriety and amendment of life ; but this may be checked by the weeds of a worldly spirit, or eaten out by corroding cares. The book is still there ; its leaves are turned by the mother, and the seed, conveyed to her heart, produces the fruit of holy living ; and the house which heretofore was a school of iniquity, is now a school of religious instruction, and children are taught the fear of God as the beginning of wisdom. Multiplied instances of such an occurrence are witnessed by Colporteurs, and furnish a cheering proof that this method of propagating the Gospel is stamped with the seal of divine approbation.

114. Colportage Established in Sweden.

" In accordance with instructions given at your last anniversary, the Board took early measures to provide for the establishment of a system of Colportage in Sweden. So

soon as the books and tracts deemed useful for the commencement of the work in that country had been prepared, Rev. Andreas Wiberg, a native of Sweden, was put in commission as Missionary Colporteur, to locate in Stockholm. His commission dates July 1st, 1855. He did not sail, however, until the 8th of September following. The Board thought it best that he should have opportunity to extend his acquaintance among his American brethren, and, at the same time, to awaken an interest in some of the churches on behalf of his mission.

He arrived in Stockholm, with his companion, on the 7th of November, having spent a few days on the way with the brethren in Hamburg. On the same day in which he arrived, he found the disciples convened for worship, and without delay proceeded to break to them the bread of life. It is cause of rejoicing and praise, that while the rural districts, and places remote from the seat of government, are greatly harassed by the spirit of persecution, Brother Wiberg has been allowed to preach in the capital with little or no molestation. The court-preacher even entered their meeting, and quietly withdrew, after reading a bitter philippic, from the writings of Luther, against the Anabaptists.

On the 14th of November, a week after the arrival of Brother Wiberg in Stockholm, eleven persons were added to the church by baptism, and the church was rendered more complete in its organization by the election of officers.

Three more have been added since by baptism. There are now four churches of our faith in that kingdom, and the number of baptized believers exceeds five hundred. Four additional Colporteurs were appointed upon the recommendation of Brother Wiberg, and entered on their work, in different parts of the kingdom, at the commencement of the present year. Their first quarterly report has not yet come to hand. At last accounts from that field, March 7th, our brethren were threatened with a renewal

of violent persecution. Brother Hejdenberg, whose letter from prison awakened such lively interest at our last Anniversary, was again imprisoned for holding conventicles and preaching the Gospel, in contravention of law. The word of God is not bound, if its teachers are ; on the contrary, their meek and patient endurance in the cause of Christ and humanity, adds force to their teaching, and redounds to the glory of God. Fines and imprisonment utterly fail to dampen the zeal or repress the courage of our brethren : they brave the storm in the martyr-spirit of primitive Christians. Twice the number of Colporteurs now in commission would be glad to receive an appointment, had we the means to sustain them. Shall we remember our brethren, now fighting the battle in Sweden, for freedom of conscience and freedom of worship, and help them, in this their day of adversity ?

Since our Anniversary, intelligence of a very cheering character has been received from Sweden. The cause of evangelical religion is spreading with extraordinary rapidity. In spite of opposition from the police, stimulated by the clergy of the Establishment, the people assemble to hear the Gospel from the lips of our Colporteurs. Congregations ranging from two to five hundred persons, and sometimes as many as a thousand, are gathered together on week days, in the open air, and listen with eagerness to the message of life. This spirit of deep and anxious inquiry is not confined to one or two localities, but is widely diffused through different provinces, from East-Gothland, in the south, to West-Norland, in the north. An irrepressible desire prevails to hear the word. The Bible and other religious books are sought with avidity, and searched with diligence, and very many believe. Even in the capital, our brethren have been called upon, once and again, to defend their principles, in public discussions with the State clergy ; and, in proof of the interest felt in the subject, it is said

that no less than two thousand persons, embracing a great number of the clergy and other people of rank, attended these meetings.

Brethren Wiberg and Mullersvord, the joint pastors of the church in Stockholm, hold seven preaching services each week; and although they occupy a large hall, they are straitened for room to accommodate their hearers. Under the editorial supervision of Bro. Wiberg, a semi-monthly paper, called the Evangelist, has been issued since the first of this year. It has already attained a circulation of one thousand copies, and bids fair to become a potent auxiliary in the work of evangelization. The press is also employed in issuing tracts, from the duplicate plates furnished to Bro. Wiberg on his leaving this country. Thousands of these tracts are being constantly scattered among the people, with the happiest results. Indeed, this seems to have been the most marked instrumentality, for years past, in this wonderful awakening. One of the brethren, writing to Bro. Wiberg, some time since, says: 'Of the prevailing craving in our country for the word of God, we may form some opinion by the following facts: I have already distributed this year, 25,000 copies of "Come to Jesus;" between 40 and 50,000 of the writings of Kyle and other authors; nearly 50,000 writings for children, and about 30,000 tracts. Bibles and Testaments are sold faster than they can be printed, and of these we are always lacking. Is not this a token for good? Yea, the Lord shows himself powerful in our days!"

Rev. P. G. Hejdenberg has been greatly persecuted, and still more greatly blessed in his work, during the past autumn and winter. Summoned to appear before different courts, in distant parts of the country, no less than five times fined, and at one time imprisoned for twenty-nine days, he has, nevertheless, labored unintermittingly in preaching, though preaching and administering the ordi-

nances constitute the sum of his offenses. He preaches in prison, though imprisoned for preaching. During his journeys from court to court, from August to April, he traveled 2418 miles, held 144 religious meetings, and baptized 116 converts. In reviewing the whole, Bro. H. says: ‘When I look back on all the way by which the Lord has led me, I am constrained to exclaim, with great thankfulness, “Behold what the Lord has wrought!”’ Nas Per Person has baptized 10 at Orsa, and Bro. Wiberg 14 in Stockholm, making a total of baptisms from August to April, of 140 souls. Well may the persecuted Colporteurs say, ‘BEHOLD WHAT THE LORD HAS WROUGHT!’

Resolutions.

After the reading of the Annual Report—whose importance seems to justify and even to demand the copious extracts we have given above, bringing up the History of the Society to the present moment, the very crisis of a new epoch of union, grandeur, and strength—it was, on motion of Rev. D. Dunbar, not only adopted and ordered to be printed, but the momentous part on the Enlargement of the Permanent Capital of the Society, was referred to a Committee, to consider and report upon in the afternoon. The Committee of five were, H. H. Hawley, Esq., Rev. D. H. Miller, and Rev. E. T. Hiscox, all of N. Y.; Rev. A. S. Patton, of N. J., and Rev. Dr. Belcher, of Pa. Committees were also raised on the topics of Home Colportage and Foreign Colportage.

The Committee on the Enlargement of Capital, made a Report, embodying the following Resolution; which, after a free conference of opinion in the meeting, was unanimously adopted:

“Resolved, That we cordially approve the proposal to

raise the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars; not more than Thirty Thousand to be appropriated to buildings, and the remaining Seventy Thousand to constitute a Publication Capital for this Society; and that we earnestly commend this object to the wealthy members of our denomination, and urge its speedy accomplishment."

The Committee on Home Colportage reported; submitting the following Resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

"*Resolved*, That the number of Colporteurs employed by this Society during the past year, should, if possible, be increased to two hundred the present."

The Committee on Foreign Colportage, reported, and recommended the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

"1. *Resolved*, That we cherish devout gratitude to the great Head of the Church for the signal blessings which have been bestowed upon us and all his people, in the conversion of souls throughout the kingdom of Sweden; and for the spiritual efficiency, constancy, and devotedness which He has imparted to our Colporteurs there laboring.

"2. *Resolved*, That, encouraged by present blessings, the Board be recommended to take steps for the immediate increase of the number of its Colporteurs in Sweden, and other parts of the world."

The officers for the year were then chosen, without any important change.

In the evening, interesting Addresses were delivered by Rev. H. C. Fish, of Newark, N. Jersey, and Rev. G. W. Sampson, of Washington, D. C.

The following resolution was submitted by Rev. Dr. Dowling, at the close of the evening, and unanimously adopted:

"*Resolved*, That the American Baptist Publication Society—by the importance of the objects it proposes to

accomplish—by the wise adaptation of the *means* and *agencies* it employs—and by the rigid economy of its administration, warmly commends itself to the confidence and co-operation of the great body of American Baptists; and should receive, as it deserves, largely increased facilities, in ample buildings, augmented capital, and increased annual contributions, for its great and important work."

116. Conclusion.

One general conclusion, it would seem, must be drawn by every reflecting mind, in reviewing this History. That conclusion is, that the American Baptist Publication Society has already been the medium of incalculable good—that it possesses, in its nature, a power of unlimited extension—that it might have accomplished, with the same Officers and Agents, incomparably more good with an adequate capital from the beginning—that the want of this capital has been the only drawback on its enterprise, the only occasion of reproach, the only source of distress, embarrassment and retrenchment; and that when the Denomination shall become properly aware of this, and shall liberally endow it with adequate means, it will, by the blessing of God, go forth with new power and glory to build up the kingdom of Christ. Then shall this Society, the property and the pride of our whole denomination, rise to its true position—central and conspicuous—like the Angel of the Apocalypse, with his face as the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire, with one foot upon the land and the other upon the sea, and with *an open book in his hand*. Then shall it lift up among the nations a voice of majesty and power, as when a lion roareth; and the responses from an awakened and redeemed world shall be sevenfold, as when seven thunders utter their voices.

A D V E R T I S E M E N T.

ALTHOUGH negotiations had been in progress for several months, prior to the last Annual Meeting of the Society, for the purchase of the stock of stereotype plates, copyrights, &c., of the New England Sabbath-School Union, with a view to the merging of that Institution in the American Baptist Publication Society, the arrangement was not consummated until the month following the Anniversary. The Board therefore directed that the following notice of the fact be published as an Appendix.

APPENDIX.

THE NEW ENGLAND SABBATH-SCHOOL UNION

MERGED IN

THE AMERICAN BAPTIST PUBLICATION SOCIETY.

THE needless multiplication of benevolent societies is justly regarded as a serious evil, and ought to be carefully avoided. In this day of active charity and enterprise, the churches may not be blamed for showing signs of restlessness and chafing when called to bear unnecessary burdens. May not the discontent and coldness, the apathy, distrust and threatened ruptures, so manifest among us within the last few years, owe their origin, in part at least, to a conviction, fastening itself upon the public mind, that we employ too much machinery in carrying on our operations; and that a more simple method might be found, which, at a less cost of men and money, would give to all our movements increased celerity and power.

Whatever may be said of other institutions, distinct in character, dissimilar in functions, and having different spheres and fields of operation, no one, we think, can doubt the wisdom of the measure which blends, in one, two institutions so like in character, in agency, in aim, as those whose names are here given. Why should two men be sent upon an errand which can be better done by one? Why should two ships be chartered to carry the same kind of cargo to the same port, when the capacity of one is more than ample to carry all? Did the New England Sabbath-school Union make books for Sunday-Schools? This is an essential part of our work. Did it send out Missionary Colporteurs?

We claim the honor of being the first American Society which used that designation for book-selling agents. Did it employ collecting agents to visit the churches, and raise funds for the support of Colportage? We do the same. Thus two sets of agents crossed each other's path, or, peradventure, met at the same place on the same errand, and for that reason more than any other, were both unwelcome; while on the other hand two sets of Colporteurs met on the same field, supplying Sunday-schools with books, and families with tracts and other reading.

This was so obviously a waste of talent, time and resources, that an anxious desire has long been felt to see a union effected between these two Societies. As early as 1840, when in answer to a call from the Hudson River Baptist Association, and the Board of the Baptist General Tract Society, a Convention assembled in the city of New York, to deliberate in regard to our publishing interests, among the measures then recommended, upon the report of a Committee composed of members from seventeen different States of the Union, the following were the principal: first, "That the Baptist General Tract Society so far change its character, as to adapt it to the purposes of a General Publishing Society;" and second, "That a union be formed between this Society and the New England Sabbath-School Union." On that same day, April 30th, 1840, the first of these recommendations was promptly carried into effect, and the Baptist General Tract Society was changed into the American Baptist Publication Society. The second was not adopted.

In 1848 an overture for union was made by the Board of this Society, and was regarded with favor by the Board of the Sabbath-School Union. An active correspondence ensued, and in the spring of 1850 negotiations were brought within sight of a hopeful conclusion; but owing to causes not needful now to detail, the wished for event was not realized, and the hopes then cherished faded away from the view.

During last summer the attention of the Board was drawn again to this subject, by the receipt of several letters, expressing the belief that the renewal of negotiations was strongly desired by our friends in New England, and if tendered would meet with a cordial response. Correspondence was accordingly

opened. It was soon ascertained, however, that previous to this the Union had sold its entire stock to a private publishing house, and that a third party must now be included in the negotiations. This rendered the matter somewhat complex and delicate. Nevertheless, no insuperable barrier was placed in the way, as the gentlemen holding the stock were disposed to favor the plan of uniting the two Societies, and were willing to give their concurrence to any measures compatible with a due respect to their private interests. The details of the compact are not required to be given here. Suffice it to say that the Board have purchased, at the appraisement of a Committee of disinterested persons, mutually chosen, the entire stock of Sunday-school plates, engravings, copyrights, &c., and have embraced the New England Sabbath-School Union as part and parcel of the American Baptist Publication Society.

This union forms a new epoch. May we not hope that now, having but one simple organization, the strength of our churches will be brought into harmonious co-operation, in wielding the Press for the spread of our principles, and that the blessing of God may rest on the work of our hands, to the praise of his glory

THE CONSTITUTION.

As Amended in 1855.

ART. 1. The name of this Society shall be—"THE AMERICAN BAPTIST PUBLICATION SOCIETY."

ART. 2. The object of this Society shall be to publish and circulate such religious works as, in the judgment of the Board of Managers, may be required by the cause of Truth and sound piety, and by the interests of Sabbath-schools.

ART. 3. Any person may become a Member of this Society by paying, annually, the sum of Two Dollars or more; a Member for Life, by the payment at one time of Twenty Dollars; and an Honorary Manager for Life, by the payment at one time of Fifty Dollars.

ART. 4. There shall be a public Anniversary Meeting of the Society, at such time, in the month of April or May of each year, and at such place, as shall be appointed by the Board of Managers, when the following officers shall be chosen by ballot, viz: a President, Vice-Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and twenty-one other Members, all of whom shall be members of Baptist Churches, who, together, shall be a Board of Managers, for the direction of all the concerns of the Society, of whom five shall constitute a quorum. A majority of the Board shall be laymen.

ART. 5. The Board of Managers shall have power to fill any vacancy which may occur in its own body; to make its own by-laws; to appoint Agents and Colporteurs; to appoint a Committee of Publication, of not less than five, whose duty it shall be carefully to examine all works proposed for publication by the Society, preparatory to their being committed to the Editor; to appoint a Committee of Finance, who shall superintend the Depository, direct all

purchases, take charge of the Society's property, devise and execute plans to increase the stock, and to superintend all agencies ; and to appoint a Committee of Accounts, who shall examine and correct all bills and accounts, previous to their being submitted to the Board ; examine and audit all the account books, and perform all other duties as the Board may direct.

ART. 6. The Board of Managers shall superintend the publication and distribution of such Books, Tracts and Periodicals as they may approve,—the establishment of Depositories,—and the formation of Auxiliary Societies. They shall hold frequent meetings, under such regulations as they may adopt, in conformity with the general provisions of this Constitution. The Board of Managers and the Treasurer shall make an Annual Report of their proceedings.

ART. 7. Any Sunday-school Union, or Society, or any Publication, or Tract Society, by forwarding to the Corresponding Secretary a copy of their Annual Report, with their Constitution and List of Officers, shall be considered an Auxiliary. The Board may grant special privileges to other Societies if they deem it expedient. Auxiliary Societies shall be allowed, and are requested to send one delegate to the Annual Meeting of this Society, to represent them, who shall have the privilege of a member.

ART. 8. Honorary Managers, Life Members, Annual Members, and Auxiliary Societies, shall be entitled to purchase the Publications of the Society, at reduced prices.

ART. 9. The duties of the Secretaries shall be assigned to them by the Board of Managers.

ART. 10. The Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer, shall give to the President, for the time being, satisfactory security for the safe keeping of the funds committed to them. The Assistant Treasurer may receive funds and pay the same to the Treasurer. and shall be Depository

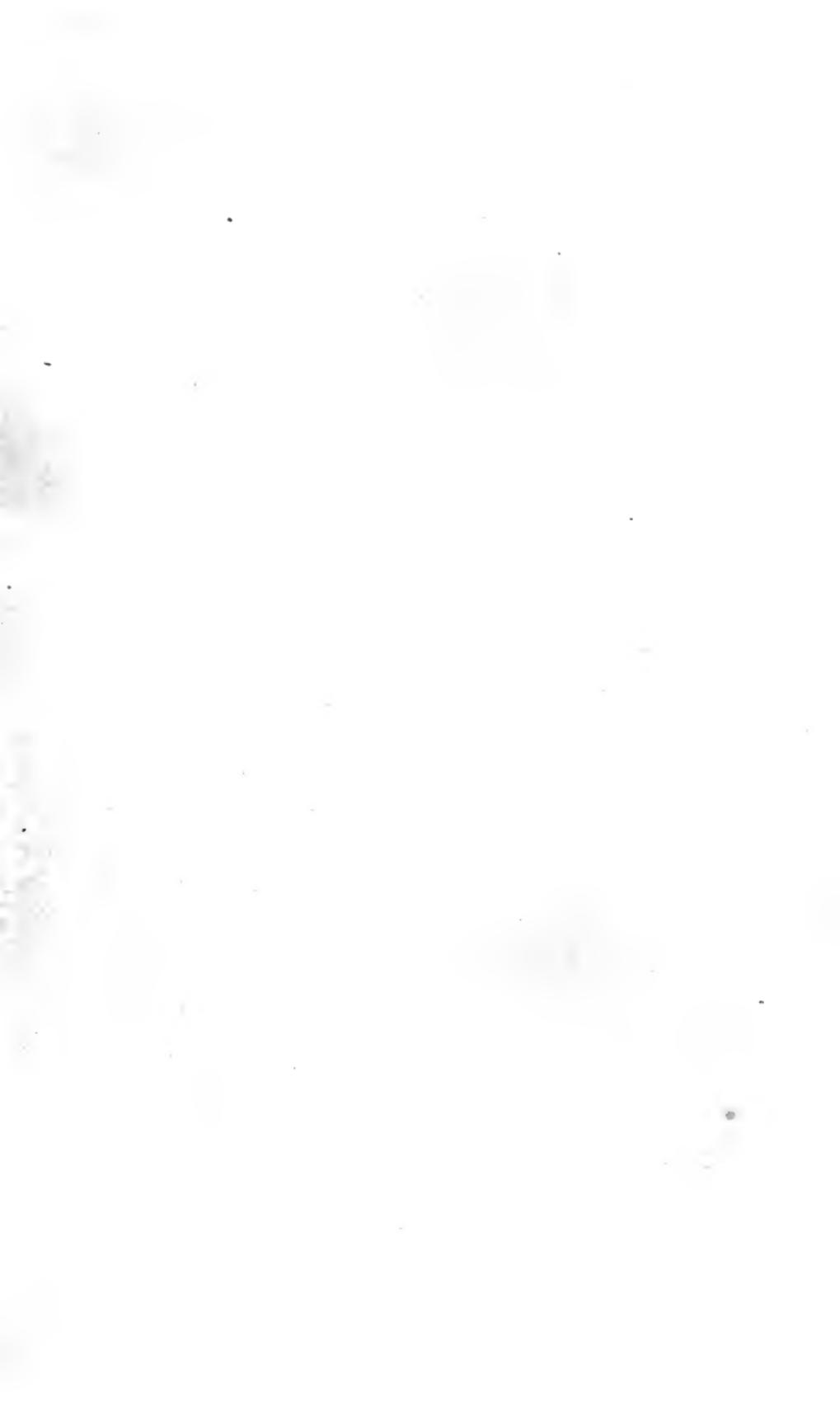
Agent to the Society. The Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer shall be under the direction of the Board of Managers, who shall have power to displace either or both if necessary, and appoint a new Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer to fill a vacancy in either office.

ART. 11. The President shall call a meeting of the Society at the request of the Board of Managers.

ART. 12. Alterations of this Constitution proposed at a previous Annual Meeting, or recommended by the Board of Managers, may be made at the Annual Meeting by the vote of two-thirds of the Members present.

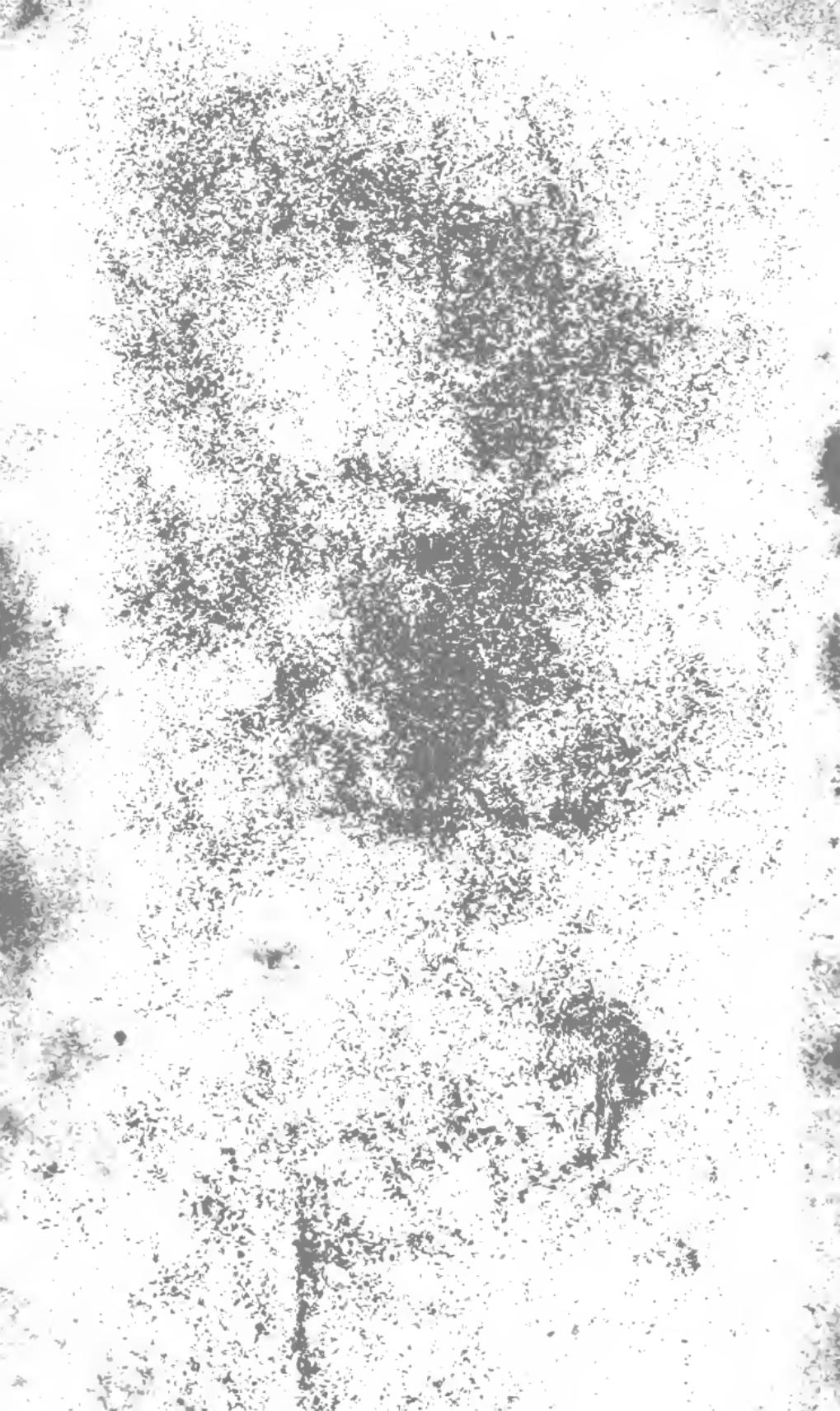
Year.	Month.	Place.	President.	Corresponding Secretary.	Depository Agent.	Treasurer.	Author of Annual Report.	Receipts.
1 1825,	Feby 28	Washington.	Obadiah B. Brown.	George Wood.	Geo. Wood.	Luther Rice.	James D. Knowles.	\$373 80
2 1826,	Jan'y 4,	Washington.	Obadiah B. Brown.	George Wood.	Geo. Wood.	E. Reynolds.	A. Caswell.	636 63
3 1827,	Jan'y 3,	Philadelphia.	John L. Dagg.	Noah Davis.	Noah Davis.	S. Huggens.	W. T. Brantly.	800 11
4 1828,	Jan'y 2,	Philadelphia.	Elisha Cushman.	Noah Davis.	Noah Davis.	S. Huggens.	Noah Davis.	3,168 04
5 1829,	Jan'y 7,	Philadelphia.	Elisha Cushman.	Noah Davis.	Noah Davis.	S. Huggens.	Noah Davis.	5,256 76
6 1830,	Jan'y 6,	Philadelphia.	William T. Brantly.	Noah Davis.	Noah Davis.	S. Huggens.	Noah Davis.	5,636 39
7 1831,	Jan'y 5,	Philadelphia.	William T. Brantly.	Ira M. Allen.	Ira M. Allen.	S. Huggens.	R. W. Cushman.	3,094 09
8 1832,	Jan'y 4,	Philadelphia.	William T. Brantly.	Ira M. Allen.	Ira M. Allen.	S. Huggens.	Ira M. Allen.	4,506 34
9 1833,	Jan'y 2,	Philadelphia.	William T. Brantly.	Ira M. Allen.	Ira M. Allen.	S. Huggens.	Ira M. Allen.	5,213 27
10 1834,	Jan'y 8,	Philadelphia.	William T. Brantly.	Ira M. Allen.	Ira M. Allen.	S. Huggens.	Ira M. Allen.	6,126 97
11 1835,	Jan'y 7,	Philadelphia.	William T. Brantly.	Ira M. Allen.	Ira M. Allen.	S. Huggens.	Ira M. Allen.	6,035 36
12 1836,	Jan'y 6,	Philadelphia.	William T. Brantly.	Ira M. Allen.	Ira M. Allen.	S. Huggens.	Ira M. Allen.	6,000 30
13 1837,	Jan'y 4,	Philadelphia.	William T. Brantly.	Ira M. Allen.	Ira M. Allen.	W. W. Keen.	Ira M. Allen.	9,215 73
14 1838,	April 24,	New York.	George B. Ide.	George B. Ide.	B. R. Loxley.	W. W. Keen.	Ira M. Allen.	9,223 26
15 1839,	April 23,	Philadelphia.	George B. Ide.	George B. Ide.	B. R. Loxley.	W. W. Keen.	Ira M. Allen.	9,264 32
16 1840,	April 30,	New York.	George B. Ide.	Morgan J. Rhees.	B. R. Loxley.	W. W. Keen.	Wilson Jewell.	8,607 05
17 1841,	April 28,	Baltimore.	George B. Ide.	Morgan J. Rhees.	B. R. Loxley.	W. W. Keen.	Morgan J. Rhees.	12,165 77
18 1842,	April 27,	New York.	Rufus Babcock.	Morgan J. Rhees.	B. R. Loxley.	W. W. Keen.	Morgan J. Rhees.	12,778 05
19 1843,	April 26,	Albany.	Rufus Babcock.	John M. Peck.	B. R. Loxley.	J. B. Trevor.	Morgan J. Rhees.	9,906 54
20 1844,	April 24,	Philadelphia.	Joseph H. Kennard.	Joseph H. Kennard.	B. R. Loxley.	J. B. Trevor.	John M. Peck.	12,714 94
21 1845,	April 30,	Providence.	Joseph H. Kennard.	John M. Peck.	B. R. Loxley.	W. W. Keen.	John M. Peck.	20,803 78
22 1846,	April 29,	Philadelphia.	Joseph H. Kennard.	Thomas S. Malcom.	B. R. Loxley.	W. W. Keen.	J. M. Peck ; T. S. Malcom.	22,727 96
23 1847,	April 28,	Philadelphia.	Joseph H. Kennard.	Thomas S. Malcom.	B. R. Loxley.	W. W. Keen.	Thomas S. Malcom.	24,277 75
24 1848,	April 26,	Philadelphia.	Joseph H. Kennard.	Thomas S. Malcom.	B. R. Loxley.	W. W. Keen.	Thomas S. Malcom.	20,927 38
25 1849,	April 25,	Philadelphia.	Joseph H. Kennard.	Thomas S. Malcom.	B. R. Loxley.	W. W. Keen.	Thomas S. Malcom.	25,416 38
26 1850,	May 1,	Philadelphia.	Joseph H. Kennard.	Thomas S. Malcom.	B. R. Loxley.	W. W. Keen.	Thomas S. Malcom.	24,822 69
27 1851,	May 7,	Philadelphia.	Joseph H. Kennard.	J. N. Brown, Ed. Sec.	J. N. Brown, Ed. Sec.	T. S. Malcom ; J. N. Brown.	40,587 71	
28 1852,	May 5,	Philadelphia.	Joseph H. Kennard.	Thomas S. Malcom.	B. R. Loxley.	W. W. Keen.	J. N. Brown, Ed. Sec.	42,358 31
29 1853,	May 4,	Philadelphia.	Joseph H. Kennard.	Heman Lincoln.	B. R. Loxley.	W. W. Keen.	Heman Lincoln.	43,404 88
30 1854,	May 11,	Philadelphia.	Joseph H. Kennard.	J. N. Brown, Ed. Sec.	William Shadrach.	B. R. Loxley.	W. Shadrach ; J. N. Brown.	49,000 00
31 1855,	May 11,	Chicago.	Mason Brayman.	J. N. Brown, Ed. Sec.	William Shadrach.	B. R. Loxley.	W. Shadrach ; J. N. Brown.	52,705 75
32 1856,	May 12,	New York.	Mason Brayman.	J. N. Brown, His. Ed.	William Shadrach.	B. R. Loxley.	W. Shadrach ; J. N. Brown.	54,501 63











Baptist publication society

YC14A137

M134197

BX6205
A6B7

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA LIBRARY

✓

